



Right to worship a civil right, Hindu side argues in Supreme Court

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Miffed Sanjay Nirupam to stay away from Congress campaign

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Four officers killed in Paris police headquarters attack

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Mayank scores a double century as India takes control of first Test

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NEARBY



Delhi Cabinet okays Bill to set up sports university

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved a Bill to set up "India's first" sports university in Delhi, which will offer graduation, post graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

CITY • PAGE 2

Kafeel Khan not given clean chit, says U.P. govt.

LUCKNOW
Days after an internal inquiry absolved Gorakhpur-based paediatrician Kafeel Khan of the major charges against him in the 2017 BRD Hospital tragedy, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday asserted that Dr. Khan had not been given a clean chit as yet.

NATION • PAGE 9

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ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ
ಒಟ್ಟು ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ
Oct. 6th - 2:30 PM
#4A/40, Basement, Opp. to Hotel Bharat Palace, ORN, New Delhi - 60
88602 41865, 96507 40438

FRIDAY REVIEW • 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

Chidambaram moves SC for bail

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's rejection of his plea for regular bail in the INX Media case on September 30.

The appeal in the Supreme Court was filed on a day the trial court extended his judicial custody till October 17 in the case. The lower court, however, allowed Mr. Chidambaram to have home-cooked food.

In his petition before the Supreme Court, Mr. Chidambaram said he had suffered over 40 days of incarceration, including the maximum permissible period of 15 days of CBI remand.

The plea was listed before a Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and Hrishikesh Roy on October 4.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Manmohan to join first batch of pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib

President, PM to take part in Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary celebrations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has agreed to be a part of the first 'jatha' (batch) of pilgrims to the Sikh shrine of Kartarpur Sahib across the border in Pakistan, while President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Thursday after formally inviting them.

He, however, made it clear that his government's 'jatha', of which Dr. Singh will be a part, will visit only Kartarpur Sahib and not attend the opening ceremony of the Kartarpur Corridor organised by the Pakistan government.

Last week, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that their government had extended an invitation to Dr. Singh.

Capt. Amarinder Singh, in a statement, said: "There is no question of me going to



Finishing touches: Work apace at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan as part of the corridor project. • AFP

Pakistan for the Kartarpur corridor opening and I feel Dr. Manmohan Singh will not go as well. There is a huge difference between visiting Pakistan and going to the Gurdwara through the Corridor."

The clarification came after a section of the media reported that the Chief Minister and Dr. Singh had accepted the Pakistani invite. "As far as visiting Pakistan is concerned, the Chief Minister reiterated that he would not go there until Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism. Punjab was the

worst sufferer of cross-border terrorism and he cannot think of going there till it stops," a State government spokesperson said.

Kartarpur Sahib is a revered shrine of the Sikh community where Guru Nanak Dev settled down and lived for 18 years until his death. Though it is merely 4.7 km away, pilgrims from India have to take a circuitous route through Lahore to reach there.

In November last, India and Pakistan agreed to build the Kartarpur Corridor to connect Kartarpur Sahib

with Dera Baba Nanak Sahib on the Indian side.

Capt. Amarinder Singh has requested President Kovind and Prime Minister Modi to attend the function of the opening of the corridor in Punjab.

"The Chief Minister urged them both, in particular, to participate in the Kartarpur Corridor opening at Dera Baba Nanak and the November 12 main programme at Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala," said the government spokesperson.

Multiple events

Ahead of Guru Nanak Dev's birth anniversary or *Parkash Purb*, the State government has planned a series of events from November 5 to 15, including a plan to send an all-party delegation to Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev that is now in Pakistan.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, the Chief Minister is learnt to have requested "Mr. Modi's personal intervention to give clearance for a *jatha* to visit the Nankana Sahib as well".

Tarigami not allowed to attend party meet in Delhi

He is under house arrest in Srinagar

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) leader and former Jammu and Kashmir legislator Yousuf Tarigami has not been allowed by the Srinagar administration to attend a meeting of the central committee of the party under way in Delhi.

The central committee is the highest decision-making body of the party. The three-day meeting began on October 2.

"We had submitted an application to Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Chaudhary well in time for the meeting. We didn't get any reply; he didn't even bother to meet us," said Irfan Gul, a close aide of Mr. Tarigami and convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Youth Federation. Mr. Tarigami, 72, is under house arrest in Srinagar without any formal orders since August 5.

Mr. Tarigami, a four-time



Yousuf Tarigami

legislator, has not been allowed to travel or meet anyone.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the Srinagar administration's decision was contrary to the Supreme Court judgment.

"It's very strange that he was denied permission even after the Supreme Court had said that he is not under detention and is free to move," he told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Hasina to focus on economic agenda

'No problems in bilateral ties'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh will try to highlight economic opportunities in relation with India, visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here on Thursday. The comments showed Dhaka's desire to foreground the economic agenda which has been overshadowed by the fallout of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and Home Minister Amit Shah's description of Bangladesh citizens as "infiltrators".

"There are no problems in bilateral ties. I have come here to discuss economic issues," said Ms. Hasina in response to a question from *The Hindu* during a public reception held at the Bangladesh High Commission.

Ms. Hasina addressed the World Economic Forum (WEF) soon after arriving here on Thursday and presented Bangladesh as a fast-growing economy and an attractive investment destination in South Asia.

"It is time for global investors, particularly Indian entrepreneurs, to invest in



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina arriving in New Delhi on Thursday. • AP

Bangladesh in areas like education, light engineering, electronics, automotive industry, artificial intelligence – beyond the conventional menu," said the visiting leader in her speech at the WEF.

Ms. Hasina is scheduled to hold official talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, and several agreements are expected to be signed. According to sources, both sides are in talks for agreements for a Special Economic Zone and a skill development centre.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Five SC judges recuse from Navlakha case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An appeal filed by activist Gautam P. Navlakha has taken an unusual trajectory in the Supreme Court – so far five judges have opted to recuse themselves in the three instances it came up for hearing since September 30.

The appeal concerns Mr. Navlakha's plea to protect his fundamental right to personal liberty and quashing of the FIR against him in the Bhima Koregaon case.

On Thursday, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat recused himself from hearing the petition when it came up for admission before a third three-judge Bench that also comprised Justice Arun Mishra, who led it, and Justice Vineet Saran.

A fourth Bench will take it up on October 4. The Supreme Court website showed the case listed before a Bench of Justices Mishra and Deepak Gupta.

It first came up before a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde and S. Abdul Nazeer.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Sealing threat for buildings lacking fire safety

HC directs fire dept., civic bodies to take action according to law

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the city government, the fire department and the municipal authorities to take strict action, including sealing, against buildings lacking fire safety measures.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar gave the direction while disposing of a public interest litigation seeking seal-

ing of two buildings in the Azadpur commercial complex for alleged non-compliance of fire safety norms.

Plea disposed of

The court disposed of the petition after the North Delhi Municipal Corporation filed an affidavit stating that both of the buildings were issued fire safety certificates on June 14.

As the petition had also

sought sealing of all other buildings in the city which were not complying with fire safety norms, the court said: "As and when any building is lacking in fire safety measures, action shall be initiated by the respondents [authorities] in accordance with law, rules, regulations and government policies applicable to the facts of the case as early as possible and practicable."

Delhi's tap water fails BIS test, deemed unsafe

Centre announces plans to conduct tests, release rankings early next month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With a new investigation of Delhi tap water showing that it is not safe to drink, the Centre has announced plans to test the quality of piped drinking water in the States and release Swachh Pani rankings early next month. It is also trying to build a consensus to make quality standards for tap water a mandatory requirement.

Report by November

A team from the Bureau of Indian Standards has been sent to State capitals to collect samples of tap water to see if they meet quality standards, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told reporters on Thursday.

"We expect the report by the first week of November and will release Swachh Pa-



Preliminary testing found that samples failed to meet the 42 parameters of the BIS standard. • REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

ni rankings to show which State is supplying safe drinking water at least in its capitals," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi has already failed that test. A BIS investigation of 11 tap water samples collected from various parts of the city – including the Minister's home at Janpath and his office in

Krishna Bhavan, both in central Delhi – shows that the capital's water does not comply with quality standards.

Preliminary lab testing found that all the samples failed to meet the 42 parameters (including odour, PH levels, total dissolved solids and metal content) that

make up the BIS standard. This shows that Delhi's tap water is not safe to drink, said Mr. Paswan, adding that the final lab results would be made public soon.

"After seeing the preliminary report for Delhi, we are holding consultations to see if we can mandate BIS' piped water standards at least in the national capital, the State capital and 100 smart cities," said the Minister, adding that BIS would be writing to State governments seeking their views on the issue.

"All governments must agree on this issue, as it is a matter of people's lives."

He added that the Delhi government has indicated it is willing to make the BIS standard mandatory in the city.

Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manu-

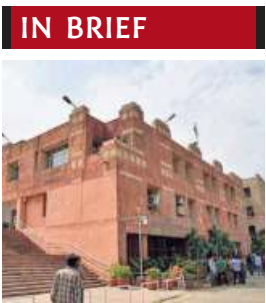
facturers to meet the BIS quality standard.

However, the BIS standard for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies which supply and distribute piped water.

Global standards

"The latest BIS standard was made in 2012, but it is not on par with international standards. I have asked BIS officials to see if we can match global quality," said Mr. Paswan.

He was speaking after a meeting with representatives from BIS, the State-run Delhi Jal Board, which supplies and distributes most of the city's water, the Centrally-controlled New Delhi Municipal Council, which distributes water in central Delhi, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).



Students protest at Minister's event in JNU

NEW DELHI
Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday delivered a lecture at Jawaharlal Nehru University on 'Abrogation of Article 370: Peace, Stability and Development in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh' at the convention centre. A group of students protested outside the venue of the lecture and shouted slogans ahead of the speech. There was also a brief scuffle between protesting students and members of the ABVP with sloganeering and counter sloganeering on the issue of abrogation of Article 370.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	136	Gurgaon	76
Ghaziabad	184	Faridabad	-
Greater Noida	188	Noida	177
0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very poor >401 Severe			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

DELHI TODAY

Talk: The Raza Foundation is hosting a lecture on "The Compass we Lost" as part of Gandhi Matters series. The lecture will be delivered by Dilip Simeon, Author and Historian, Founding Member of the Association of Indian Labour Historians and former Professor of History, Ramjas College at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annex, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on "Communal Violence and Media" by Prof. Deepak Mehta, sociologist, Ashoka University and Prof. Ravi Sundaram, media and culture theorist, CSDS at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on "Belt and Road Initiative & Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Are they Compatible?" by Akio Takahara, Dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo, Japan at Lecture Room 2, Basement, India International Centre, 2.30 p.m.

Exhibition: "End of the Road", a solo heritage photography exhibition by Arya Arora at Delhi 'o' Delhi Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Shahar-e-Dilli", a solo photography show by Yajaneeka Arora at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Inner Bliss", a solo painting show by Aruna Tewari at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Caravan", a group show of painting and sculpture by eminent artists at Art Magnum, Yusuf Sarai, Aurobindo Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Court: recompute Delhi Judicial Services results

HC to communicate results by SMS, e-mail

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court has accepted the challenge to nine out of 15 questions asked in the Delhi Judicial Services (preliminary) examinations and directed the Registrar General to recompute and publish the updated result by October 4.

The court said apart from placing the list of additional eligible candidates on the website by 6 p.m. on Friday, the High Court administration will communicate them by both SMS and e-mail of being qualified for writing the mains exam.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions by law graduates aspiring to be judicial officers, challenging the correctness of the answer keys to some of the questions in the Delhi Judicial Services (Preliminary) Exams which was held on September 22.

A Bench of Justices S. Muralidhar and Talwant Singh declined the prayer of the petitioners to postpone the date of mains exams, that is, October 12-13 as the HC has to adhere to the deadline given by it to the Supreme Court.

"In other words it is clarified that even the additional candidates found eligible as a result of the above exercise will have to necessarily

Cabinet approves Bill to set up 'India's first' sports university

Campus to come up in Mundka; it will offer UG, PG and doctorate degrees

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved a Bill to set up "India's first" sports university in Delhi, which will offer graduation, post graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

Making the announcement, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the university will come up in 90 acres of land in Mundka and there will also be sports schools.

He said that the Bill has to be now approved by Lt. Governor Anil Bajjal and if approved soon, then it will be passed in the winter session of the Assembly.

"Earlier, a sportsperson used to be uncertain about his future, just for the fact that if he is not able to establish a career in sports, he will just be called a school pass out. He would not get a



Arvind Kejriwal

job because every job requires at least a graduation degree to get through. This sports university will grant you a degree in sports such as cricket, and hockey. A passionate sportsperson can now devote all his time to playing and excelling in sports," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Affiliated to CBSE

The Delhi Sports University (DSU) is proposed to be set up as a State university and it will have a full-fledged Delhi Sports School, affiliated

to the CBSE, for imparting education with emphasis on sports and to groom the students for a career in sports.

"The Delhi Sports University Bill' approved by the Cabinet, grants the university the right to establish constituent schools and colleges.

"It is a matter of disappointment that many students who have played sports at the national-level are nowhere on the same platform as students who can give their IAS examinations because they have a graduation degree. The share of jobs under sports quota is also limited. We are hoping to eradicate that uncertainty from the minds of sportspersons," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

"To ensure that such sportspersons are also equipped in educational and literary skills, the

Centre shall besides the training towards sporting excellence, have provisions and facilities for liberal academics to ensure that the trainees and sportspersons also obtain formal academic degrees from Delhi Sports University depending on their sporting talents," an official statement said.

In ideation process

But the Chief Minister said that the curriculum of the university and the subjects are in the ideation process and will be developed after deliberations with experts. He also did not give a timeline for establishing the university.

The Chancellor of the Delhi Sports University will be the Lt. Governor. The Vice-Chancellor would be a sportsperson of international eminence with administrative experience in a national-level institution.

Now, working govt. officials can spend quality time with children

Sisodia inaugurates creche at Delhi Secretariat building

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday inaugurated a creche at the Delhi Secretariat building so that government officials will be able to bring their children to work and leave them at the creche.

The government said that the Department of Women and Child Development took the initiative keeping in mind that many government officials leave their home and send their children to private creches, which forces parents to spend very less time with their children.

"With this initiative, officials can now keep their children within their own office premises which will not only help them to bridge the gap of physical distance between parents and children but also will strengthen both parents and the children emotionally," the government said.

Inaugurating the facility,



Manish Sisodia

Mr. Sisodia said, "Now every working professional here who has a child at home and wants to spend quality time with him or her can do so. All thanks to this idea of starting a creche. Working parents can spend quality time with their children here, like eating food and reading them stories. This is an excellent model which should be adopted by all workstations, including private organisations."

He added that the initiative will ensure working women spend quality time with

Thanks to this idea of starting a creche. This is an excellent model which should be adopted by all workstations, including private organisations

MANISH SISODIA
Deputy Chief Minister

the children which will create a favourable atmosphere for both. "I am happy that from now on the officials working here will be able to stay closer to their children, visit them, feed them and play with them. This is a precedence we are setting for the working women," Mr. Sisodia said.

The creche at the Secretariat building has two feeding centres, two sleeping rooms comprising four beds, a playroom, two dressing rooms and a huge living area for the children and their parents.

Krait snake rescued from Malviya Nagar

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

A common krait snake was rescued from the DDA flats in Malviya Nagar by the members of NGO Wildlife SOS.

The Wildlife SOS received a call from a Malviya Nagar resident around 9 p.m. on Wednesday. The caller said he had spotted a snake curled up behind a brick right next to the entrance to his house.

The NGO said that two snake-rescuers were rushed to the spot and the rescue operation was completed within 30 minutes.

"Not all phone calls end in successful captures or encounters. The snakes often disappear before help arrives. We have to be very sensitive about the time taken to arrive at the spot and carry out the rescue operation," a member of the rescue team said.

The common krait is found across most of India's mainland and is one of the four most venomous snakes in the country, members of the NGO also said.



Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds and hailstorm lashed the Capital on Thursday evening, bringing the temperature down by several notches. The maximum temperature recorded during the day was 34.8 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, while the minimum was 23.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal. The showers, however, managed to bring down the temperature to 25 degrees Celsius at 8 p.m. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



Insurance firm told to pay ₹1.27 lakh compensation to accident victim

Medical slip only mentioned 'the smell of alcohol': consumer panel

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed the Tata AIG General Insurance Company to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹1.27 lakh after the insurance firm repudiated a claim on the grounds that the driver of the vehicle which met with an accident was under the influence of alcohol.

While taking note of the medical slip provided by the hospital where the driver was treated, the consumer panel observed that a claim cannot be repudiated based on a report which states that

"smell of alcohol was found."

"The question arises as to whether mere smell of alcohol from the mouth of the driver of the insured is enough to reject the claim. The answer is in the negative. In fact, a person can be understood to have been under the influence of liquor if a specific amount of alcohol is found in his blood at the time of accident making him unfit to be rational," the Bench observed while adding that the medical slip only mentioned "the smell of alcohol."

The directions came when the consumer panel was hearing a complaint

which challenged the repudiation of the claim by the insurance firm. The firm had contended that according to the terms mentioned in the policy which entailed that the company is not liable to make any payment if the driver is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

While directing the insurance firm to compensate the complainant, consumer forum further observed, "There is also no evidence that the separate conditions were ever supplied to the insured either at the time of inception of the policy or at any time thereafter."

DU teachers strike work against 'attack on service conditions'

They were against a circular which allows only guest appointments

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

Teachers of Delhi University struck work on Thursday protesting against "continuous attack on service conditions". They were joined by students in a protest march through the university campus.

The protesters were against a recent circular by the university which allows only guest appointments against full-time regular vacancies, the Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) said.

"Replacement of full-time teachers by guest faculty, who are paid on per



Delhi University teachers staging a protest on the campus on Thursday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lecture basis, will have major implications on the quality of teaching," the group said.

The teachers also protested lack of promotions over

the last 10 years, which they said had led to an "exodus of many teachers". Promotions of over 3,000 teachers are due for years now, the group claimed.

Security stepped up in city after intelligence alert: police

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Security has been beefed up across the national capital after police received intelligence inputs on a possible terror strike, a senior police official said on Thursday.

Raids are being conducted by the Special Cell of Delhi Police at several locations across the city since Wednesday evening after the intelligence inputs suggested that three to four members of a terror outfit may have infil-



A Delhi police constable at a barricade on Mathura Road.

■V.V. KRISHNAN

trated into the city, he said.

The police said they have received inputs that heavily

armed men from Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit might

plan to carry out a terror strike.

Security agencies are also keeping an eye at crowded locations in view of the possible threat and festive season.

According to police, raids were conducted at over two dozens locations across the city to nab the suspects from their possible hideouts, including places like Okhla, Zafarabad, Najafgarh, Seemapuri, New Usmanpur, Seelampur, Jamia Nagar,

New Delhi Railway Station, Paharganj and areas of South Delhi, and have questioned numerous people.

The airport also got a general alert in view of the upcoming festivals.

"There is a general alert in view of upcoming festivals in airport and the security has been beefed up," said CISF sources.

Security agencies have been on vigil since August 5 after the abrogation of special provisions of Article 370,

which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Delhi Police has intensified patrolling and picketing in several areas across the national capital as the city gears up for Durga Puja and Ramlila to ensure safety and security of people, especially women.

The organisers have been briefed to have hand held metal detectors, door framed metal detectors and CCTV installed at various points of the pandals.

CM
YK

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DELHI ☀️ Timings			
FRIDAY, OCT. 04			
☀️ RISE	06:15	🌇 SET	18:04
🌙 RISE	11:55	🌇 SET	22:35
SATURDAY, OCT. 05			
☀️ RISE	06:16	🌇 SET	18:03
🌙 RISE	12:51	🌇 SET	23:27
SUNDAY, OCT. 06			
☀️ RISE	06:16	🌇 SET	18:02
🌙 RISE	13:43	🌇 SET	00:00

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	24
Safdarjang	35	24
Palam	36	23

Delhi Palam Today
35°C A pleasant and hazy morning. Day will be warm with cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Dry weather with hazy and pleasant morning. Day will be warm.

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Seven dead, 30 hurt as bus falls into river

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAISEN

Seven persons died and over 30 were injured after a private bus fell into a flooded river in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district in the wee hours of Thursday.

The bus was apparently speeding and the driver lost control while it was passing over a bridge, the police said.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath expressed grief over the incident, and announced aid of ₹4 lakh for the kin of each deceased.

The Chhattarpur-bound bus, which had started from Indore, fell into the Richhan river, about 40 km from the State capital Bhopal, around 1.30 a.m., said SP Monika Shukla.

The river was in spate following continuous rains.

"Five bodies were recovered in the night. The body of another person was recovered this morning, while one of the injured person died during treatment in Bhopal, taking the toll to seven," Ms. Shukla said.

Sacked BSF constable to contest against Haryana CM

"The fight is against corruption and unemployment"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Constable Tej Bahadur Yadav, who was in 2017 sacked from the Border Security Force after he uploaded a video on a social media site complaining about the food served to the troops, will contest against Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar as the Jannayak Janta Party's candidate for the Karnal Assembly constituency.

The JJP on Thursday announced another list of 35 candidates.

"Me and my party's fight is against the corruption in the country and in Haryana. I am ready to take the challenge to fight the ruling BJP, and hence the party has decided to field me against Manohar Lal Khattar," said Mr. Yadav, who hails from Mahendergarh district. He would file his nomination on

Cong. MP hits out at 'politicians' welcoming relief for Rajoana

They have stooped to lowest level for petty gains, says Beant Singh's grandson

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu, the grandson of slain former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, on Thursday hit out at "politicians" who welcomed the Centre's move to commute Balwant Singh Rajoana's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Mr. Bittu said a few politicians are terming the development as "applying balm to the wounds of Sikhs", which clearly shows their "petty mindset".

'Clarify stand'

"They [politicians speaking in support of Rajoana] should clarify whether Sikhs or Punjabis are terrorists," said Mr. Bittu.

He said during the days of militancy in Punjab, people



Balwant Singh Rajoana

like Rajoana used to threaten innocent people who participated in the electoral process.

"They used to threaten people that if they participated in voting, they would chop off their fingers. Politicians supporting Rajoana should not forget that they

themselves have come through the same electoral process, which people like Rajoana strongly opposed," said the Ludhiana MP.

'Supporting Khalistanis' Mr. Bittu said the Narendra Modi-led government and its alliance partner Shiromani Akali Dal have "stooped to the lowest level for petty political gains".

"On one side, the Punjab police are working hard to bust several terror modules in the State, and on the other, the Union government at the behest of the Akalis are patronising Khalistanis as well as the extremists who created havoc during the dark days of terrorism in Punjab," he alleged.

Mr. Bittu said he would continue his fight against pe-

ople like Rajoana because he would not let anyone disrupt the hard-earned peace and communal harmony in Punjab.

Rajoana, a member of banned terror group Babbar Khalsa International, was awarded the death sentence for the assassination of Beant Singh.

Execution stayed

He was to be hanged on March 31, 2012, but the Centre stayed the execution after the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee submitted a mercy petition to the President.

The decision to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment comes weeks ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Setback for BSP as members in Saharanpur switch to BJP

Move comes ahead of Gangoh Assembly bypoll on Oct. 21

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

In a setback to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in western Uttar Pradesh, almost all the senior members of the party in Saharanpur have switched to the BJP. The move comes ahead of the Gangoh Assembly bypoll on October 21.

Those who joined the BJP include former MLA Ravindra Molhu, who was considered close to BSP chief Mayawati. Addressing his supporters, Mr. Molhu said he was feeling "suffocated" in the party and his supporters were not getting the respect they deserved.

Almost two dozen party workers, including district party president Rishipal Gautam, joined the BJP in the presence of State president Swatantra Dev Singh in Lucknow on Wednesday.

According to sources, the selection of Irshad Choudhary as the BSP candidate in a constituency where there is significant Dalit population did not go down well with the party workers.

The Gangoh seat fell vacant after sitting BJP MLA Pradeep Chaudhary was elected from Kairana to the Lok Sabha earlier this year.

'Not affect prospects'

Putting up a brave front, BSP leader Ranvir Singh Kashyap said it would not affect the prospects of the party in the coming bypoll.

"Candidates are decided by Behenji [Mayawati] and nobody could question her choice. In the past, many seniors leaders have left the party, but it didn't create any impact. This happens because of factional politics at the district level and the party

ty would look into it," he added.

Senior BJP leader and former MLA from Saharanpur Rajiv Gumber told *The Hindu* that the development indicated the diminishing base of the BSP in the region. "Though the BSP supported us on dilution of Article 370, the local population is not happy with its stand on the Ram temple. Their leaders are not being able to defend the party stand."

On how it will affect the grassroots workers of the party, which was once known to accept workers on the basis of their ideology, Mr. Gumber said he would not make any comment on the decision of the party leadership.

"What I can say is that the party always keeps in mind the interests of its grassroots workers."

Take up canalisation of Punjab rivers as national project: CM

'It will boost region's economic growth, conserve water'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has asked the Centre to take up canalisation of the State's three eastern rivers of the Indus water system – Sutlej, Ravi and Beas – as a national project to enable conservation of water and enhancement of the region's economic growth.

In his proposal presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting in New Delhi, the Chief Minister suggested construction



CM Amarinder Singh

of high-speed economic corridors on the 985-km-long river embankments, apart from flood protection measures and lining of side slopes of the Sutlej, Ravi and

Beas.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the three perennial rivers irrigate only about 27% of the State's cultivated area, leading to over-exploitation of groundwater.

Capt. Amarinder also said that there was a need to harness river water which was currently flowing into Pakistan during the monsoons. "The canalisation of rivers and development of river front areas will expand activities, leading to widening of the base of Punjab's economy," he said.

Toddler killed over urination row in M.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SAGAR

A one-and-a-half-year-old boy died after being hit with a stick by his neighbour, whose son had urinated in the open, leading to an argument between the two families here in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Tuesday evening in Bagaspur village under the Bhangarh Police Station area.

The accused, Ram Singh and his 20-year old son Umesh, have been arrested, police said.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused two persons (1) Ravi Kumar Nigam S/o Ishwar Nath Nigam (2) Neelam Nigam W/o Ravi Kumar Nigam R/o H.No. A-7, Ashok Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi-52 have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 57/2017 and FIR No. 40/2018, u/s 420/468/471 IPC** registered at PS Hauz Qazi, Delhi and it have been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Ravi Kumar Nigam (2) Neelam Nigam could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Ravi Kumar Nigam (2) Neelam Nigam have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused persons (1) Ravi Kumar Nigam (2) Neelam Nigam of **FIR No. 57/2017 and FIR No. 40/2018, u/s 420/468/471 IPC PS Hauz Qazi, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.11.2019.**

By order
Sh. Dinesh Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate-08
Room No.272,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DPI/6614/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



Barham Prakash

General public is here by informed that this person namely Barham Prakash S/o Late Sh. Avdesh Narayan Singh R/o A-126-27, Jahangir Puri, Delhi **Age : 30 years, Height : 5'7", Face : Round, Complexion : Sallow, Build : Thin, wearing yellow colour T-shirt & pant and hawai chappale in feet, has been missing since 23.09.2019. In this regard DD No. 29-A dated 25.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in **SHO :**
Website: http://cbi.nic.in **P.S. Mahender Park, Delhi**
Fax No: 24368639, Tel. No. : 011-27632501,
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 27632502

DP/6444/NW/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Hari Singh

General Public is hereby informed that one person **namely Hari Singh, S/o Ganga Shah, R/o H. No. 77/34, Circular Road, Janta Colony, Shahdara, Delhi, Age:54 years, Height: 5' 10", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Fat, Identification: 'Mentally Weak', Wearing: Yellow colour Kurta & Lungi,** has been missing since **dated 02.09.2019** from the area of **PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi.** In this regard a case vide **DD No. 344 dated 10.09.2019** has been lodged at **PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-22146040,
DP/1229/SHD/19 7065036021

No HC relief for owners of polluting brick kilns

Punjab government had fixed Sept. 30 deadline for switching to new technology

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has rejected a plea for protection to brick kiln owners who had failed to switch to the newly mandated emissions technology across the State.

The Punjab government had issued orders directing that all brick kiln owners convert their polluting units to new norms by September 30, beyond which no conventional brick kilns would

be allowed to operate.

Several brick kiln owners had approached the court against the State government's orders, but in their resumed hearing on Thursday, a Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Rajeev Sharma and Justice H.S. Sidhu refused to grant any relief to them.

CPCB guidelines

In the previous hearing on October 1, Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda had

placed before the court details of the State government's orders and directives, arguing that these were in compliance with the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, various circulars of the Punjab Pollution Control Board as well as orders passed by the National Green Tribunal dated January 22, 2019.

According to the State government's orders, brick kilns found continuing to operate without converting to

the new technology will be required to pay compensation on the 'polluter pays' principle, amounting to ₹25,000 per month for a kiln with a capacity of more than 30,000 bricks per day and ₹20,000 per month for kilns with a capacity of less than 30,000 bricks per day.

In their petition, brick kiln owners stated that they were in the process of converting to the new technology but it was taking time due to lack of trained persons..

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Office of The City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer Gautambudh Nagar No. 2004 / ST-CM (Marriage Registration) 2019 Date : 20 September, 2019

NOTICE
A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Kushal Abrol S/o Mr. Punit Kumar Abrol R/o 105, Sector-12A, Panchkula - 134112 (Haryana) and Ms. Pankhuri Pianiia D/o Mr. Mahesh Kumar Pianiia R/o C-78, Sector - 33 Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned any person interested therein may file objections to it on any day upto 15-10-2019 in the office of the undersigned.

Marriage Officer
Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

PUBLIC NOTICE
"This is to inform General Public that my client Smt. Jamuna Devi wife of Late Ram Avtar R/o D-165, GF, Khasra No. 21, Gali No. 11, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, has disowned her Son Suraj Prakash and his wife Monika Prakash for their misconduct and behavior from all moveable and immovable property. Anyone dealing with them will do so at their costs and risk. My client will not be responsible in any manner".

Shahrugh Khan (Advocate)
Ch.No. 196, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

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My Client Sh. Mohinder Khanna S/o Late Sh. Om Prakash Khanna R/o 719, Block-I, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon-122017, and Mrs. Sushma Khanna W/o Sh. Mohinder Khanna, have severed all their relations and debarred and disowned their son Atul Khanna aged 32 years, R/o 719, Block-I, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon-122017, daughter-in-law Ritika Khanna, and grandson Aiyman Khanna, from all of their moveable and immovable properties due to their misbehavior. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his own cost, risk and consequences.

VAIBHAV NAUTIYAL (Advocate)
Office at: C-360, L.G.F. Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

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I Seema Husain w/o Mohd Shahid Hussain r/o 74T sector 8 Jasola Vihar New Delhi 110025 to be known as Seema Hussain for All Purpose.
I Hitherto known as Jay Bhagwan S/o Sh. Rohitash V.P.O. Gotlra Khekra Baghat U.P. Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jay Bhagwan Kagra

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Rajeev Kumar surrenders in Kolkata court, granted bail

Former city Police Commissioner makes first public appearance since Sept. 13

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Senior IPS officer Rajeev Kumar on Thursday made a public appearance after almost 20 days and completed the formalities of his anticipatory bail before a city court in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam.

“The Hon’ble High Court had granted interim bail to Rajeev Kumar. In that respect he surrendered before ACJM court today (Thursday). The court granted him bail and he furnished two sureties of ₹50,000 as directed,” his lawyer Gopal Halder told journalists.

Mr. Kumar, who is posted as Additional Director General of Police (CID), was last publicly seen on September 13, the day the High Court withdrew the interim pro-



IPS officer Rajeev Kumar at the Alipore court in Kolkata on Thursday. •PTI

tection from arrest given to him.

What followed in the next 20 days was a legal battle in

different courts between Mr. Kumar and the Central Bureau of Investigation and teams of the Central agency visiting various places in the city looking for him.

Relief to the former Kolkata Police Commissioner came on October 1 when a Division Bench of Justice Sahidullah Munshi and Justice Subhasis Dasgupta accepted his interim bail petition.

HC ruling

While granting anticipatory bail to Mr. Kumar, the Bench had said the custodial interrogation as sought by the CBI was not required when “he has rendered his cooperation substantially in the interest of investigation”.

The CBI has been alleging non-cooperation and suppression of evidence on the

part of Mr. Kumar over past several months.

On February 3, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sat on a dharna when the CBI went to question Mr. Kumar.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of ₹2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.

The IPS officer was part of the Special Investigation Team set up by the Bengal government to investigate the scam, before the Supreme Court handed over the case to CBI in 2014, along with other chit fund cases.

The scam was unearthed in 2013 during Mr. Kumar’s tenure as the Bidhannagar Police Commissioner. (With PTI inputs)

Another plan to repatriate Mizoram Bru refugees fails

SYED SAJJAD ALI AGARTALA

Yet another initiative to repatriate the Mizoram Bru refugees stranded in the camps in north Tripura on Thursday failed to receive response from the inmates. The authorities could manage to send only 40 families to Mizoram after the refugee leaders refused to return citing mainly security reasons in their home State.

The North Tripura administration has stopped supply of ration in the makeshift camps to comply with the instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The repatriation attempt was the latest of the MHA involving the State governments of Tripura and Mizoram and the Mizoram Bru Displaced Peoples Forum (MBDPF), apex body of the evacuees.

Over 30,000 Bru, also known as Reang, refugees are now housed in six camps in the Kanchanpur subdivision since they fled ethnic violence in Mizoram in September 1997.

The Mizoram government sent nearly 100 buses and trucks to transport them.

Rain threat to Durga Puja celebrations in Kolkata

Malda district has been witnessing flood-like situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

While some parts of West Bengal, particularly in Malda district, have been witnessing a flood-like situation for the past several days, the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata on Thursday predicted that the city, its suburbs and other areas of south Bengal are likely to experience light to moderate showers till October 8.

“There is a cyclonic circulation over Uttar Pradesh because of which there is incursion of moisture from the Bay of Bengal, particularly south Bengal,” said an official at the weather office located in Alipore.

Thunderstorms likely

Pointing that that southwest monsoon winds have not withdrawn from anywhere in the country, including Bengal, the weatherman predicted “scattered thunderstorms with light to moderate rainfall in Kolkata and adjoining districts from October 4 to October 6”. “The rainfall will moderately increase on October 7 and October 8,” the weather office



A Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata highlighting the future of refugees in the view of the National Register of Citizens. •PTI

said.

On Thursday, the people of the Kolkata woke up to a cloudy morning. Many parts of the city and its suburbs witnessed light rainfall during the day.

The five-day forecast has become a cause for unease for thousands of Puja organisers and lakhs of people who are planning pandal-hopping this festive season. There are at about 3,000 community Durga Pujas in Kolkata and over 25,000 in the State. The week-long festival will continue till October 8, when the immersion of

idols in the river Hooghly begins.

Large parts of Malda district, particularly the areas surrounding Ratua block, remain submerged. Movement of heavy vehicles on the State highway connecting Ratua with Malda town has been stopped.

On Wednesday, two Ministers, Javed Khan and Ghulam Rabbani, faced protests at Devipur in Ratua when they had come to take stock of flood relief in the area. There have been allegations of political bias in the distribution of flood relief materials.

Odisha to strictly enforce ban on single-use plastic

Awareness drive launched in all urban areas of the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR

After it faced strong opposition over implementation of the amended traffic rules a few weeks ago, the administration is taking no chances before strictly enforcing the ban on single-use plastic in Odisha.

The administration has launched an awareness drive in all the urban areas, including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and Berhampur, in a big way to make people aware of the threats plastic bags, polythene and single-use plastic pose to the environment.

Though raids are being conducted in different areas, a period of one

month has been given to traders in Bhubaneswar to make necessary arrangements to cope with the ban on single-use plastic. Cases will be registered against repeat offenders, an official said.

Although the decision to ban single-use plastic was announced by Chief Minister in July last year, it came into effect in all urban areas of the State on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on Wednesday.

The awareness drive was launched in a big away on Gandhi Jayanti day when pledge was administered to students and their parents in various government

schools and Anganwadi centres to shun single-use plastic. Noted sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik had created a sculpture on the Puri beach recently with the slogan “say no to single-use plastic” to create awareness among the people.

After banning single-use plastic in urban areas, the State government has planned to enforce it in the entire State in phases over the next two years.

While the Housing and Urban Development Department will enforce the ban in the municipal corporations and urban local bodies, the Panchayati Raj Department will enforce it in rural areas of the State.

Man gets death for rape, murder of two women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SIVASAGAR (ASSAM)

A sessions court here on Thursday awarded death sentence to Bikash Das for raping two women before murdering them and dumping their bodies in train toilets last year.

Holding him guilty for his offence under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (murder), Sessions Judge S.K. Poddar also awarded Das rigorous life imprisonment for offence punishable under Section 376(d) IPC (rape) and imposed a fine of ₹10,000.

If he fails to pay the fine, his sentence would continue for another three months, the court said.

The sessions judge had on September 27 let off Das’s accomplice due to lack of evidence.

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THE HINDU

'Sufficient prima facie material against Sudha Bharadwaj'

Documents., CDR add up to corroborative evidence, says Pune Police



Sudha Bharadwaj.

The Pune police on Thursday submitted before the Bombay High Court that there is sufficient prima facie material to charge lawyer and trade unionist Sudha Bharadwaj under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for her alleged role in the Bhima Koregaon violence.

Arguing before a single Bench of Justice S.V. Kotwal, additional public prosecutor Aruna Pai opposed Ms. Bharadwaj's bail and yet again relied upon documents from another accused Rona Wilson's laptop and call detail records (CDR) to say all of it added up as "corroborative evidence".

She said they also show that Ms. Bharadwaj, vice-pre-

She also read out several letters recovered from Mr. Wilson's laptop and another accused, advocate Surendra Gadling's computer that show Ms. Bharadwaj was part of a team to recruit young people. She said, "IAPL, Anuradha Gandhi Memorial Committee (AGMC), Committee for Release of Political Prisoners, and Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee are front organisations of the banned Communist Party of India Maoists (CPI-M) She mentioned a letter recovered from Mr. Gadling's computer that was on the letter head of CPI-M. When she read out another letter which was focusing on AGMC, the court said, "it does not connect to the present applica-

tion [by Ms. Bharadwaj] in anyway." Ms. Pai then said, "there is no direct connection". Ms. Pai also read out another letter recovered from Mr. Wilson's laptop, and quoted, "we need to come up with a proposal for initiating an All-India Anti-Fascist Front by strengthening Dalits and Muslim forces from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra." Ms. Pai also began her arguments opposing activist Arun Ferreira's bail and said there is material against him to charge him under the UAPA for being a member of a banned organisation, for recruiting cadres, collecting funds and aiding and abetment. She will conclude her arguments on October 4.

Confusing the predator



Staying safe: Villagers of Fetri and Borgaon, near Bor forest, wear tiger masks before farming. The Forest Department has distributed around 300 such masks to prevent any attacks as it is believed that tigers attack from behind.

Cong. names 37 candidates, NCP 20

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI The Congress finalised names of 37 candidates on Thursday while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) released its second list of 20 candidates for the October 21 Assembly elections.

Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, now with Congress, Ashish Deshmukh will take on Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur South West constituency. The party has also changed candidates for Nandurbar (ST) and Sillod in Aurangabad.

Mr. Deshmukh, son of former senior Congress leader Ranjeet Deshmukh, had contested as BJP candidate from Katol in 2014 and defeated his uncle Anil Deshmukh (NCP). He however resigned before Lok Sabha polls and joined Congress.

Apart from Malad west, the Congress has named candidates in seven other constituencies in Mumbai - Ghatkopar east, Ghatkopar west, Versova, Kalina, Bandra west, Wadala and Byculla. Senior party corporator Asif Jakeriya will contest from Bandra west, former corporator George Abraham (Kalina), Baldev Khosa (Versova) and Anand Shukla (Ghatkopar west).

Lok Sabha bypoll: ex-Sikkim governor pitted against NCP's royal turncoat

NCP chooses Shriniwas Patil after Prithviraj Chavan decides to focus on Assembly

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and ex-Sikkim Governor Shriniwas Patil will take on ex-NCP MP and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's candidate, Udayanraje Bhosale, in the Satara Lok Sabha bypoll to be held along with the Assembly elections in the State on October 21.

Mr. Patil, a former IAS officer and a close associate of NCP chief Sharad Pawar, staged a show of strength in Satara after filing his nomination on Thursday.

Mr. Pawar had earlier urged senior Congressman Prithviraj Chavan to contest the by-election. However, Mr. Chavan, the sitting MLA of Karad South (in Satara) had declined, preferring in-



NCP candidate Shriniwas Patil.



Udayanraje Bhosale, BJP candidate from Satara.

stead to focus on the Assembly elections. Mr. Patil has been elected MP twice, in 1999 and 2004, from the erstwhile Karad Lok Sabha constituency in Satara before its delimitation ahead of the 2009 polls. Political equations have changed overnight in Satara, which was completely domi-

nated by the NCP before this year's Lok Sabha polls after the defections of both royals - Shivendrasinh Bhosale, the former NCP MLA from Satara and Udayanraje Bhosale, the ex-NCP MP from Satara Lok Sabha constituency - to the ruling BJP. The NCP currently holds three of the six Assembly

Bhosale declares assets worth ₹170 cr.

SHARAD VYAS MUMBAI The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Satara for the Lok Sabha bypolls, Udayanraje Bhosale, has declared assets worth ₹170 crore. A former Nationalist Congress Party MP from the constituency, Mr. Bhosale

had announced his entry into the BJP last month. He filed his nominations this week, after his name featured in the party's first list of candidates. The declared assets include five cars - two Mercedes-Benz (one with number 007), a Ford Endeavour,

an Audi, a Maruti Gypsy and a Volkswagen Polo (belonging to his wife). He also declared jewellery worth ₹1.5 crore, among other movable and immovable assets. Mr. Bhosale was the richest candidate in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls with declared assets worth ₹199 crore.

Ex-MBMC mayor, 19 others booked for assault

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA THANE

Former mayor of the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC), Geeta Jain, and her 10 bodyguards have been booked for allegedly manhandling the organisers of a Navaratri event in the township and creating a ruckus, police said on Thursday.

According to officials from the Naya Nagar police station, where the offence was registered, the incident occurred on Wednesday night during an event in Shanti Nagar, where the current mayor of Mira Bhayandar, Dimple Mehta, was being felicitated. "During the function, just as Ms. Mehta was being felic-

itated, Ms. Jain arrived with her followers and 10 bodyguards," Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mira Road Division, Shantaram Valvi, said. Ms. Jain demanded that she also be felicitated at the event. "Her bodyguards and supporters then went on to the stage and manhandled the organisers," Mr. Valvi said.

Obituary & Remembrance section containing death notices for P.A. Srinivasan, Mrs. D. Elizabeth Christiana, and Dr. C. Gopalan, along with contact information for The Hindu.

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Jharkhand. Chief Conservator of Forests, Personnel (Gazetted), Jharkhand, Ranchi RFP No.-01/2019 (Second Round) Corrigendum Ref. PR No. 217575 dtd. 21.09.2019

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi ... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 04.10.2019

Himachal Pradesh NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT BID Executive Engineer &PH Division Dharampur Bharari, on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the online Lump Sum Contract bids on turnkey basis from the eligible bidders of Indian Entity through online bidding system on or before 17.10.2019 at 1700 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs) on the site https://hptenders.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER DESIGN MASTER PLANNING & HYDROLOGY WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Reference No:NHP/WRD/JH/CE/DMPH/NCB-08/2019-20Date:01/10/19 Invitation For Bid (IFB) E-Procurement Notice

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED (CIN - U40108JH2013-SGC001702) Regd. Office: Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Email:-cecr2018@gmail.com, Telephone:-0651-2400826 & Fax: 0651-2400799 e-TENDER NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, HAZARIBAGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-Tender Reference No. : NH/HAZARIBAGH/2019-20/06Dated 01.10.2019

IN BRIEF



YSR Vahana Mitra scheme to be launched
VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the YSR Vahana Mitra scheme at Eluru on Friday. He will distribute ₹10,000 as assistance to auto, taxi and maxi driver-cum-owners. It can be used to pay insurance and licence fee and other expenses.

Karnataka to divert funds for flood relief
BENGALURU
With the Centre yet to release funds for flood relief and the State not being able to garner resources, the Karnataka government has decided to divert funds allocated for various projects, including the steel flyover in Bengaluru (now shelved), for providing relief to flood-affected people in different parts of the State.

Karnataka considering NRC: Minister

We are discussing the issue with Union Home Ministry and will take a call, says Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU
Karnataka on Thursday became the latest to join the list of States that are keen on implementing a National Register of Citizens (NRC), like in Assam.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Karnataka was seriously considering a NRC. “We are one of the States where people from across the border have come and settled down. We are discussing the issue with the Union Home Ministry and will take a call,” he said.

Criminal activities
The Minister said a large number of people had come from other countries, particularly Bangladesh, and settled in Bengaluru and other cities in the State. “Some of the immigrants have even been involved in criminal and illegal activities. This has come to our notice,” he said.



Huge influx: The Home Minister says workers had come from other countries, particularly Bangladesh, to the State. Picture shows migrant labourers in Hassan. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

“After discussing the pros and cons, we will take up the issue of NRC with the Union Home Ministry,” he said. Karnataka’s proposal

comes close on the heels of Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s pitch for a NRC across the country. The State governments in

Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, all led by the BJP, have expressed interest in implementing NRC.

Interestingly, senior officials in the State Home Department appeared to be clueless over the proposal, even as the Home Minister said he had already held meetings on the issue.

Officials clueless
Multiple senior officials *The Hindu* spoke to said there was neither a formal proposal that was discussed nor any meetings with the specific agenda of discussing the NRC held, to the best of their knowledge.

Sources said a review meeting on foreign nationals involved in crime in the State was indeed held, and directions had been issued to speed up the process of deporting them to their home countries.

“However, this does not pertain to only Bangladeshis but to African nationals and those from other countries as well,” said an officer.

KCR govt. to allot liquor shops afresh

Few changes made in Telangana policy

N. RAHUL HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has notified fresh allotment of liquor shops by issue of licences for the next two years with a few changes in the policy.

The government, headed by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, has invited applications from prospective licence holders from October 9 to 16, and shops will be allotted by draw of lots on October 18.

The application fee has been enhanced from ₹1 lakh two years ago to ₹2 lakh. The government earned ₹411 crore as fee from 41,000 applications last time. There is no change in the number of shops to be allotted, which has remained at 2,216 since the formation of the State.

The allotment has been delayed by one month now but the government extended the licence of owners even as it imposed an additional fee. Hence, the new licence period will be from November 1, 2019, to October 31, 2019.

Special levy
Apart from a hike in application fee, changes in the policy include levy of a special retail excise tax of ₹5 lakh per annum as one time collection from each shop. But this will not be accounted to enhance the eligibility limit for offtake of stocks from the beverages corporation. The existing shop turnover tax at 8% on stocks lifted from the Beverages Corporation in excess of the value equivalent to seven times of licence fee will continue.

Drone cameras threatening Nilgiris wildlife

Birds may get injured when they attack remote devices of photographers, say conservationists

ROHAN PREMKUMAR UDHAGAMANDALAM

With more and more amateur photographers descending on the Nilgiris and the rest of the Western Ghats to capture footage of stunning vistas and exotic wildlife, conservationists are concerned that enthusiasts using drone cameras may be posing a significant threat to the endangered species of birds, especially raptors, many of which are known to attack the equipment and sustain injuries in the process.

Wildlife enthusiasts like M. Santhanaraman, a lawyer who has photographed breeding pairs of Shaheen Falcons in Gudalur, believe



Aerial threats: The Shaheen Falcon is known to be very aggressive around unmanned drones. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that the drones pose a huge threat to birds of prey.

Threat of extinction
“It is a matter of fact that raptors, when threatened, are known to even abandon

nesting sites, and unfortunately, many species of raptors threatened with extinction nest in rocky outcrops, where amateur photographers most wish to use drones to photograph or

shoot footage,” said Mr. Santhanaraman.

“Not just raptors, there have been even videos of elephants being absolutely petrified by drone cameras,” he added, stating that the use of drone cameras or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles mounted with filming equipment in forest areas, without the permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden is a criminal offence.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagam, a conservation NGO working towards protecting vultures and other species of raptors, said that falcons are known to attack drones on sight. “When birds attack these

cameras, the rotor blades of the equipment can cause life-threatening injuries to them,” he said.

Identify areas
Conservationists believe that while a blanket ban on drones is impossible to enforce, the forest department should identify areas where vultures and other raptor species are known to nest, and set up effective policing to prevent the unauthorised use of cameras.

Forest officials said there is a ban on using drones in reserve forests, unless the written permission is obtained from the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Karnataka govt. orders CBI probe against Shivakumar

‘It’s an open-ended order with broad scope for investigation’

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has ordered a probe by the CBI against Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, who is presently lodged in Tihar jail. This will only add to the troubles of the Congress leader, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case on September 3.

Sources said the ED had written to the State government informing that their investigation had revealed the Kanakapura MLA had violated the Prevention of Corrup-



D.K. Shivakumar

tion Act, 1988, and indulged in corruption.

Acting on the letter, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa ordered a CBI probe. “It is an open-ended order with a

broad scope for investigation,” a source said.

It is common for multiple Central agencies to take up investigations based on revelations of a probe by one agency, the source said.

Trouble for Mr. Shivakumar began with IT searches in August 2017.

It was the I-T Department that brought the ED into the picture, tipping it off about ₹8.6 crore in unaccounted money found at four premises linked to the then Minister in New Delhi and other suspected hawala transactions.

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MAINTENANCE NORTH DIVISION
New Delhi
e-Procurement Tender Notice
TENDER ID NO. 2019_NDMC_181243_1.
Name of work:- Repairing, servicing, overhauling, testing of 11KV /630amp H.T. SF-6 Kirlskar make circuit breaker with remote control panel at ESS NA(Old).
Estimated Cost:- 12,43,885/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five Only).
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution 30.09.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution 10.10.2019 at 3.30 PM
Date/Time for opening of bid through e-procurement solution 10.10.2019 at 4.00 PM
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system of Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.
EE(E)M/N **E.A(M/N)**

HIMUDA, DIVISION PARWANOO, DISTRICT SOLAN (H.P)
हिमुडा मंडल परवाणू जिला सोलन हि.प्र. (Ph. No. 01792-232359)
(Head Office :-NigamVihar,Shimla-171002, Cont. No. 0177-2623790)
www.himuda.hp.gov.in, Email id: Parwanoo Office: xenhimuda.parwanoo@gmail.com
(A state Government Undertaking) **www.himuda.com** **e-Procurement Notice**
***INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) ***
1. The **Executive Engineer, HIMUDA, Division Parwanoo, H.P** on behalf of Chairman, HIMUDA invite online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in **Two Cover System** for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms/companies enlisted with the similar Government Agencies of the State or neighbouring State of Punjab, Haryana and U.T Chandigarh shall be eligible for participation in the tendering process of HIMUDA. However, the successful bidders must get registered in HIMUDA, in appropriate class before signing the contract (All conditions as per enlistment rules of HIMUDA 2018) who have sufficient/ requisite experience in the execution of similar nature of work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost. (Rs.)	Earnest money. (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Time Limit.
1.	C/o PSFS 8 Nos. Cat-II Flats Baddi, Phase-III District Solan (H.P) (Sub Head:- Special Repair of Block No.G, Cat-II Flats i.e strengthening of parking floor columns and water supply, sanitary installation).	Rs. 23,24,940/-	Rs. 42,500/-	Rs. 5000/-	Two Months

The bid documents will be published online on website <https://hptenders.gov.in> on 03.10.2019 1600 Hrs. upto.
Endst.No.PD/HIMUDA/CB/Tender Notice/2019- **Dated:** **(Er. Rajesh Thakur)**
HP / 0035/2019-2020 **Executive Engineer,**
HIMUDA Division, Parwanoo

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PROJECT WING, JAMMU
MOHINDER MANSION, SATELLITE COLONY NEAR WAVE MALL,
BHATINDI ROAD, JAMMU, J&K
Telephone No:0191-2493853 Email:ceprojectwingjmu@gmail.com
No.CE/PW/J/7234 Dated 28/9/19
Extension No.5
Due to poor response, the last date for submission of e-bid against e-NIT No:01 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU town in Jammu province under RAPDRP-B Dated:01.07.2019, 02 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated:01.07.2019 , 03 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated:02.07.2019, 04 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated:02.07.2019 & 05 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/KATHUA, SAMBA & R.S. PURA Towns in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated:02.07.2019 is hereby extended as per below given details.

S. No.	Project Detail	e-NIT No./Date	Last date for Submission of e-Bid (Extended)	Last date for Hard copy (Extended)	Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid online (Extended)
1	Electrification works in Jammu Town Which include construction New 11 KV Lines, New LT ABC Lines, Installation of New Distribution Transformers, Conversion of Existing LT lines on Bare Conductor to ABC & associated works under Package 01,02,03 & 04 Electrification works in Kathua, Samba & R.S.Pura Towns which include construction New 11 KV Lines, New LT ABC Lines, Installation of New Distribution Transformers, Conversion of Existing LT Lines on Bare Conductor to ABC & associated works under package 05	1. 01 of 2019-20/ RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 01.07.2019 2. 02 of 2019-20/ RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 01.07.2019 3. 03 of 2019-20/ RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019 4. 04 of 2019-20/ RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019 & 5. 05 of 2019-20/ RAPDRP-B/Kathua, Samba & R.S. Pura Towns in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019	14.10.2019 4 P.M.	15.10.2019 4 P.M.	16.10.2019 2 P.M.

DIP/J-7076 CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT WING (JAMMU)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, CHAIBASA
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender Reference no :- WRD/MID/CHAIBASA/F2-16/2019-20

1	Name of the work	Renovation of Badpose Medium Irrigation Scheme under Manoharpur Block of West Singhbhum District.
2	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Rs. 1,18,67,100.00 (Rupees One Crore Eighteen Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred) only.
3	Time of Completion	11 Months
4	Last Date / Time of Receipt of Bids online	22.10.2019 upto 5.00 P.M
5	Date of Publication of tender on website	15.10.2019 at 12.00 PM
6	Date of opening Tender	24.10.2019 at 12.30 PM
7	Name & Address of the inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Chaibasa.
8	Contact no of e-procurement officer	91628-94128
9	e-mail Id of e-procurement officer	eemidchai-cemr-jhr@nic.in eemidchaibasa@gmail.com
10	Helpline number of e-procurement cell	0651-2214784
10	Last Date for Receipt of Bids	23.10.2019 at 3.00 PM
10	Fee, Security and other Document.	

Note :- Only e-tender will be accepted
Further Details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer
P.R.218533 West Singhbhum (19-20):D Minor Irrigation Division Chaibasa

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchary Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.:- +91-651-2225878, CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,
e-mail Id:-juidco@juidco.com, pdt.juidco@gmail.com

NIT No: JUIDCO/PMAY/V-III/Khunti/2019/318 Date: 01.10.2019
e-procurement (Tender Notice)

1.	(a) Name of the work	Construction of 210 Dwelling units in 11 number of G+3 blocks (including structural design) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) at Jamwadag, Khunti.
	(b) Scope of Work	Scope of work include Architectural Planning & Design, Engineering Procurement, preparation of detailed structural design & drawing project execution & Construction, after obtaining approval from municipal bodies including water supply and sanitation, sewer network, electrification work, storm water drainage, rain water harvesting, landscaping, barbed wire fencing, street lighting, construction of internal roads and parking area of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at Jamwadag, Khunti on EPC basis.
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs 14,01,19,617.00
4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee: Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty- Five Thousand) only Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs. 14,01,500/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs One Thousand Five Hundred) only.
5.	Date / Time of Publication Of Tender on Website	03.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
6.	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	25.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
7.	Last Date / Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	26.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
8.	Date of Bid Opening	26.10.2019 17:30 Hrs
9.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi – 834001
10.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-Tenders shall be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-Procurement website and can be seen on the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> **Sd/-**
बूट - बूट नहीं बदलें तो बूट को तस्सें **Project Director (Technical)**
JUIDCO Limited, Ranchi
PR 218625 (Urban Development and Housing)19-20#D

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION,
DIN DAYAL NAGAR, BOOTY ROAD, RANCHI-834008
Pho. No. 0651-2360428, E-Mail ID:- eenhranchi-jhr@nic.in
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid/ Package no.- NH/RANCHI/EPC/01/2019-20 Dated- 01.10.2019
RFP for PR/IRQP work in Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70) of NH-75Ext under NH Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand (JOB No.-75Ext-JHR-2019-20/197) on EPC mode under NH Division Ranchi. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake PR/IRQP work in Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70) of NH-75Ext under NH Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand (JOB No.-75Ext-JHR-2019-20/197) work on Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70 on NH-75(E) through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract.

State	NH No.	ICB No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Completion period	Maintenance period
Jharkhand	NH75Ext	-	PR/IRQP work in Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70) of NH-75Ext under NH Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand (JOB No.-75Ext-JHR-2019-20/197)	6,45,18,943/- (including GST & LC)	06 (Six Months)	3(Three years) after Completion

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> from **04.10.2019 to 19.11.2019** (upto 17:00 Hrs IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> on or before 19.11.2019 (upto 17:00 Hrs). Bids received online shall be opened on 21.11.2019 (at 15:30 hours IST).
Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 21.11.2019 (at 12:30 hours IST). Please note that the Ministry/ Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Ranchi
Phone: 7260095011
PR 218629 (Road) 19-20 (D) **बूट - बूट नहीं बदलें तो बूट को तस्सें**

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DIRECTORATE OF PRINTING, NAHARLAGUN
TENDER NOTICE
No. DoP-117/2019 Dated Naharlagun the 25th September,2019

Sealed tenders are invited from the Interested Company, Authorized Dealers / Manufacturers only for supply of following machines / equipments to the Directorate of Printing, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh Naharlagun in two bid system, 1. Digital colour printing System, 2. Double Demy Single Colour Offset Printing machine, 3. Perfect Binding machine and 4. Computerized Programme Paper Cutting machine.

Interested Manufacturers / Authorized Dealers / Companies may collect the Tender Paper containing other detail terms & conditions and technical specifications separately for each item from the Office of the Director of Printing, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Papunallah, Naharlagun – 791110 w.e.f. **14th October 2019 to 5th November 2019** between 11.00 hrs to 16.00 hours on working days by paying a Tender fee of **Rs. 3000/-** (Rupees three thousand) only in the form of bank draft drawn in favour of Director of Printing, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Naharlagun on SBI Itanagar.

The firms will have to submit a written requested on their authorized company / firm's letter head for issue of "Tender Paper" for the particular machine / equipment by enclosing a copy of Dealership certificate / Proprietorship certificate, Trading License as a proof of dealing with the particular item and copy of PAN card / Aadhar Card.

The same bidder / firm can participate in single or multiple items by collecting the tender paper separately for each item, if the documents of the bidder / firm fulfill the above mentioned criteria of dealing with multiple items without any extra tender fee.

The Details of specifications and other terms and conditions, etc. will be available in the tender paper. The tender will have to be submitted strictly as per the specifications and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender.

The last date (deadline) of submission of Tender is **8th November 2019** upto 12 Noon.

(Tajuk Charu)
Director of Printing,



IN BRIEF

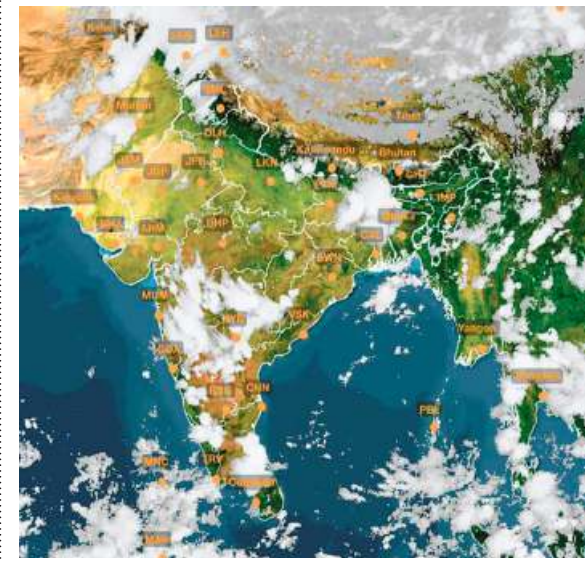
Stalin seeks CBI probe in NEET impersonation case
TIRUVARUR
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president M.K. Stalin on Thursday demanded a CBI probe into the NEET impersonation case, which is being investigated by the Tamil Nadu CB-CID. Mr. Stalin said that “since more than 50 students were believed to have taken this route to secure MBBS seats and agents from other States were also said to have been involved,” it was a fit case for the CBI to take up the probe.

Lokpal receives 1,065 complaints, disposes all NEW DELHI
Lokpal, the apex anti-corruption ombudsman that became functional after the appointment of its chairperson and eight members in March, has heard and disposed of 1,000 of the 1,065 complaints received till September 30. “Although the form for filing complaint has not yet been notified, Lokpal decided to scrutinise plaints received in the office, in whatever form they were sent,” said the authority.

Nurses allege denial of maternity leave NEW DELHI
Nursing professionals have written to the Labour and Employment Ministry asking it to ensure that those working in the private sector are given the maternity benefits they are entitled to by law. Some medical centres, they complain, do not grant leave at all and some others who permit leave do not pay for the period.

Woman throws three daughters into channel CUDDALORE
A 27-year-old woman allegedly threw her three daughters into an irrigation channel at Sathapadi after a quarrel with her husband. All the three girls – Hansika, 6, Ranjini, 5, and two-year-old Darshini – died. Their mother M. Sathiyavathy later surrendered before the Sethiathoppu police.

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Bihar and South Interior Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5.8...	34.0...	25.6	Kozhikode	...	34.4...	26.6
Ahmedabad	...	33.0...	25.8	Kurnool	...	34.7...	23.5
Aizawl	...	27.2...	20.4	Lucknow	...	27.6...	24.0
Allahabad	89.3...	27.7...	23.6	Madurai	...	34.4...	26.0
Bengaluru	7.8...	30.4...	19.2	Mangaluru	...	31.5...	24.4
Bhopal	...	29.9...	21.2	Mumbai	...	32.1...	24.5
Bhubaneswar	12.8...	33.8...	22.8	Mysuru	...	...	20.2
Chandigarh	...	32.0...	21.4	New Delhi	...	34.8...	23.8
Chennai	...	34.0...	27.0	Patna	...	1.2...	32.2...
Coimbatore	...	34.4...	24.3	Port Blair	...	...	23.9
Dehradun	...	30.7...	19.5	Puducherry	...	...	23.5...
Gangtok	6.2...	18.6...	15.6	Pune	...	30.9...	20.8
Goa	...	33.5...	25.0	Raipur	...	32.6...	24.7
Guwahati	0.5...	31.5...	24.2	Ranchi	...	...	22.0
Hubballi	...	29.0...	21.0	Shillong	...	16.7...	14.4
Hyderabad	...	32.2...	23.4	Shimla	...	...	22.0...
Imphal	...	27.7...	19.9	Srinagar	...	...	9.5
Jaipur	...	33.8...	22.3	Thiruvananthapuram	...	1.2...	31.5...
Kochi	...	29...	31.6...	Tiruchi	...	...	34.3...
Kohima	...	8.9...	21.6...	Vijayawada	...	...	34.7...
Kolkata	...	5.8...	30.4...	Visakhapatnam	...	...	32.2...

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday
CITIES SO₂ NO_x CO PM_{2.5} PM₁₀ CODE
Ahmedabad..... 100 111 91 114 118 ...
Bengaluru..... 7 31 28 35 38 ...
Chennai..... 12 11 39 29 35 ...
Delhi..... 14 51 50 126 274 ...
Hyderabad..... 12 33 18 48 92 ...
Kolkata..... 14 40 21 99 94 ...
Lucknow..... 3 38 49 36 ...
Mumbai..... 6 18 104 96 ...
Pune..... 86 8 67 66 65 ...
Visakhapatnam.....
Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. For a copy of the application form & complete details, please visit NFDB's website i.e. <http://nfdb.gov.in>.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Death toll in Bihar floods soars to 73

Several areas remain inundated after a week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Bihar soared to 73 on Thursday, even as forces involved in relief and rescue operations fished out rotting corpses from water-logged areas in several places. The torrential rain that took place between September 27 and September 30 has created a flood-like situation in 15 districts of the State, including the capital.

The State Disaster Management Force (SDRF) said that the death toll takes into account loss of lives caused by drowning, wall collapses, trees crushing people to death, and the electrocution of people trapped in water-logged areas. It could not provide a district-wise break-up.

Worst affected
Bhagalpur, where the district administration has confirmed as many as 12 casualties, may be the worst affected. In Patna, normal life has come to a grinding halt in



Reaching out: NDRF personnel rescuing an elderly person in Patna on Thursday. ■ RAJNEET KUMAR

many parts of the city, notwithstanding efforts being made by the district administration, along with the National Disaster Response Force and the SDRF, to replenish stocks of food, medicines and drinking water for stranded citizens. Banks, shops, private hospitals and coaching institutes, which abound in Kankar Bagh, Rajendra Nagar and Pataliputra Colony, the worst-affected sections, have

been closed for a week. The last time they could conduct normal business was on Friday, when the downpour began late in the evening and continued over the next couple of days. Heavy duty pumps have been brought in from Chhattisgarh to flush out the water with greater speed. Many localities have been rid of inundation. Complaints are flooding helplines set up by the district administration, and its

WhatsApp group, with assurances from District Magistrate Kumar Ravi that remedial measures will be taken. **‘Beyond Patna’**
Bharatiya Janata Party MP Ram Kripal Yadav, who on Wednesday night fell into a shallow river while trying to reach a waterlogged area in rural Patna, alleged, “It seems the Patna administration cannot look beyond Kankarbagh and Rajendra

Nagar. Waterlogging has been there in Danapur but nobody seems to notice.” Many have pitched in to help. In one instance, 13-year-old girl Siddhi Shreya came all the way from Samastipur to donate ₹11,000 she had collected over the years, for flood relief. The money was received by former MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, who has earned plaudits for his efforts in the past few days.

Shivpuri killings could have been averted: rights body

The police did not heed complaints of the Dalit family, says HRLN report

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Strict implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, appropriate preventive action by the police and fear of law could have averted the killing of two Dalit children by caste Hindu men for defecating in the open, the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) said in a report. The police did not heed the complaints of the Dalit family, belonging to the Mehtar caste, of severe caste-

based discrimination and untouchability at Bhavkhedi in Shivpuri district, the preliminary report said. “No action was taken on the family’s previous complaints of harassment. This gave upper caste persons impunity,” said Swapnil Shukla, part of the two-member fact-finding team of the network of lawyers and activists working for marginalised communities. “Had the police taken preventive steps, the incident could have been averted,” he said. The team met the family,



The fact-finding team interacting with villagers in Shivpuri. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

villagers, the public prosecutor and a Dalit rights activist. On September 25, as the two children were defecating along a road, two brothers, of the dominant Yadav com-

munity in the village, allegedly hit them on their heads with sticks, killing them. The police have said the caste angle is being looked into, as part of the investigation. Due to the media coverage, a case was registered swiftly, but it was a one-off. Mr. Shukla told *The Hindu*. “Overall, due to the shoddy implementation of the Act in the district, the police are reluctant to register cases of caste discrimination. This is often under pressure from upper castes.” The team said adequate police protection was being provided to the family and a riot-control vehicle has been stationed there. Moreover,

the district administration has promised the family members housing and jobs in Shivpuri city. Half of the compensation mandated under the Act, ₹4,12,500, was provided to families of each of the victims the day after the incident, the report said. The team noted that the gun licence with the Yadav family was yet to be revoked. It recommended setting up of special cells under the Act in sensitive areas. Meanwhile, a team of the district administration visited the school recently, and claimed to have found no signs of caste discrimination there.

New Chief Justices appointed in seven HCs

Justice S. Mani Kumar will move to Kerala

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday appointed new Chief Justices for seven High Courts (HCs). Four of the new Chief Justices will fill the vacancies left by Justices V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy, who were elevated to the Supreme Court. Justice S. Mani Kumar of the Madras High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice in Kerala HC in place of Justice Hrishikesh Roy. Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy from the Karnataka High Court has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in place of Justice

Ramasubramanian. Justice Ravi Shanker Jha, Acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has been appointed as Chief Justice in Punjab and Haryana HC. Justice J.K. Maheshwari of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been appointed as the Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice. Justice Indrajit Mohanty of the Bombay High Court will take over as the Chief Justice in Rajasthan from Justice Bhat. Justice Arup K. Goswami, Gauhati High Court judge, has been appointed as Sikkim High Court Chief Justice and Justice Ajai Lamba, Allahabad High Court judge, has been appointed in Gauhati.

U.P. Legislature holds 36-hr-long special session

Some Oppn. MLAs ignore boycott call

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Legislature was all set to create history of sorts on Thursday night by holding 36-hour-long uninterrupted sessions of both Houses amid a boycott by rival parties. The simultaneous sittings witnessed Aditi Singh (Congress), Shivalp Yadav (SP) and Aslam Raini (BSP) come out against their respective party’s decision and address the House. Two others, including Nitin Agarwal (SP) and Anil Singh (BSP), who have already switched sides but technically continue to be members of their respective parties, attended the proceedings. The 36-hour special ses-

sion to mark the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi began at 11 a.m. on Wednesday. The Treasury Benches were all ears when SP MLA Shivalp Yadav addressed the special session, terming it “historic”. He also praised the BJP-led State government for organising an investors’ summit. Addressing the session, BSP MLA Mohammad Aslam Raini said he had listened to his inner voice and decided to attend the Assembly. Thanking Mr. Adityanath for his initiatives, he said, “If I thank too much, everyone will say I have joined the BJP.” “Don’t be afraid... *Jab pyar kiya to darna kya*,” Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit joked, triggering laughter.

Mobile app to bring together canine blood donors

T.N. varsity’s unique initiative will help save lives of dogs

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI

Even though great strides have been made by scientists of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Tanuvas) in canine blood transfusions, lack of adequate donors continues to remain a challenge. In order to bridge the gap, Tanuvas has launched a mobile app – Blood4Pet – to bring ‘pet-parents’ together across the country. “As far as we know, this is a unique app since we have not come across any such an arrangement even in many developed nations. The app will help both pet owners

and veterinarians to find suitable donors for dogs,” said S. Balasubramanian, Director-Clinics, Tanuvas. **Modern blood bank**
Tanuvas has a well-equipped, modern blood bank, and an ambulance to reach out to pet blood donors for collecting blood. Over 200 blood transfusions are done every year at Tanuvas in Chennai. Dr. Balasubramanian said the app was user-friendly and pet-parents could register themselves and their dogs, along with name of the dog’s breed, its blood group, weight and address.

“Most pet-parents are unaware that their dogs can save the life of another dog through blood donation. You may not know that your neighbour has a dog and its blood can match that of your pet. The app will connect pet owners. There is also a feature in the app for veterinarians, through which they can interact among themselves on topics related to canine blood donation and issues arising out of transfusions,” he said. There’s also a provision in the app for calculating the amount of blood required. A dog can safely donate blood once in three weeks.

U.P. frames new charges against Dr. Kafeel Khan

Paediatrician not given a clean chit, asserts State govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Days after an internal inquiry absolved Gorakhpur-based paediatrician Kafeel Khan of the major charges against him in the 2017 BRD Hospital tragedy that saw about 30 children succumb due to the apparent lack of oxygen, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday asserted that Dr. Khan had not been given a clean chit as yet. Moreover, a fresh departmental inquiry has been initiated against him for spreading “misinformation” about the probe report and for making “anti-government” political comments during the period of his suspension. The State rapped Dr. Khan for “causing panic” by attempting to treat patients by forcibly entering the paediatric department of the district hospital in Bahraich with “three, four outsiders” on September 22, 2018. With this, Dr. Khan faces a total of seven charges.

Previous charges
All four previous charges against the doctor, including the two for which apparently no evidence was



Dr. Kafeel Khan

found against him in the internal report, are still pending for departmental action, a senior official said. Two years after he was suspended and jailed following the deaths of infants due to alleged lack of oxygen supply at the hospital, Dr. Khan last week shared with the media an internal report absolving him of the major charge of “medical negligence”. The report’s author also observed that Dr. Khan was not involved in the process of supply, tender, maintenance, payment or the ordering of oxygen. However, the report found Dr. Khan guilty of indulging in private practice, which is against the rules. Principal Secretary, medical education, Rajneesh Dube asserted that Dr. Khan had spread false and misleading information, including on social media, that he had got a clean chit on the basis of this report.

Family court grants divorce to Indrani, Peter Mukerjea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Peter and Indrani Mukerjea ended their 17-year-old marriage after a family court in Mumbai granted them divorce on Thursday. The couple, who are currently on trial for the murder of Mukerjea’s daughter Sheena Bora, had filed for divorce in September 2018. The two were granted divorce after their lawyers submitted compliance of the consent terms, which was accepted by the court. The couple, after they filed the petition, were given six months to reconsider



Peter Mukerjea with Indrani. ■ FILE PHOTO

their decision. But both remained firm on ending their marriage and informed the court of it on Thursday.

राष्ट्रीय मत्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड
National Fisheries Development Board
मत्स्यपालन विभाग
Department of Fisheries
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India
सम्पर्कसंख्या - 235 या. बी. एन. आर. एक्सप्रेसवे, इन्फो-एन. बी. पी. एन. र. हैदराबाद - 500 052
Pillar No. 235, PVRN Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 052.
फ़ोन / Phone No. 040- 2400 0201/177 ; वेबसाइट/ website: nfdb.gov.in
No.NFDB/Admn/Dep/349/2019 Date: 24.09.2019

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited to fill up the Technical Posts on deputation basis (FST) at NFDB, Hyderabad. For a copy of the application form & complete details, please visit NFDB's website i.e. <http://nfdb.gov.in>.
Sd/- Senior Executive (A&F)

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Last Date: 21.10.2019
Sd/- Assistant Registrar (E)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagara Zone,
No,144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bengaluru - 56.

No: EE/KNG/INVEND/27/2019-20 **Date: 03.10.2019**

NOTIFICATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division invites Tenders on Behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from Eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Project Cost of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Drilling of Borewell and Supplying of Drinking Water through Tankers in Kengeri at Ward No-159.	99.00	82.92	1,70,000/-
2.	Drilling of Borewell and Supplying of Drinking Water through Tankers in Kengeri at Ward No-130.	99.00	82.91	1,70,000/-
3.	Improvements to Drains and Culverts at Selected Reaches of Doddabidarakallu in Ward No-40 Under Phase 2.	60.00	50.25	1,02,000/-
4.	Improvements to Drains and Culverts Muneshwara Nagara near Naik House and Surrounding Areas in Ward No-40 Doddabidarakallu.	95.00	79.53	1,60,000/-
5.	Improvements to Drains and Culverts at Selected Reaches of Doddabidarakallu in Ward No-40 Under Phase 1.	95.00	79.54	1,60,000/-
6.	Development of Roads and Footpath at MTS Layout Krishnappa Garden and Surrounding Areas in Ward No-159 Kengeri.	250.00	209.37	3,15,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the e-procurement portal GOK from **11.10.2019** from **4:00 pm**. (2) Last Date and time for Receipt of Tenders is **19.10.2019** upto **12:30 pm**. (3) Opening of Bids on **21.10.2019** at **12:30 pm**. (4) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **14.10.2019** at **3:00 pm** in the office of the Chief Engineer, RR Nagara Zone, RR Nagara. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer Kengeri Division

Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru



Toilet targets

The campaign to end open defecation can succeed only if it takes communities with it

India's declaration on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi that its rural areas are now open defecation-free will be acknowledged around the world as a milestone in its developmental journey. Cleanliness and sanitation were central to Gandhi's concerns for his vast number of impoverished countrymen, and should ideally have been pursued zealously by governments in free India, along with good housing and access to clean water. In 2014, the NDA government made total sanitation a high priority, with the avowed goal of bridging decades of neglect through a policy focused on toilet construction. That 110 million toilets were built under this programme since then counts as an achievement in itself, even though many of these structures have been bootstrapped to ramshackle dwellings; many do not meet construction standards. Forward-looking as it is, the campaign for universal sanitation and an end to open defecation cannot go far if toilet access is the sole metric of success. One independent survey shows toilets are not used by up to half the population in some places, underscoring the challenge ahead. It is welcome, therefore, that an ODF-Plus programme has been adopted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to encourage toilet use and create the infrastructure to manage solid and liquid waste in every village. This is a long road, and the Central government can hope to achieve sustainable outcomes only if it prioritises citizen rights and community participation. The campaign has erred in its approach in many instances, opting for coercive methods that produce dreadful consequences.

Development literature makes it clear that bringing one set of freedoms to people, including material benefits, cannot compensate for the loss of others, notably freedom from oppression. This bears mention in the context of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and its efforts to end open defecation, since officials and campaigners have resorted to violence, public shaming and the threat of deprivation of welfare benefits to bring about compliance. Such methods must be ended immediately and voluntary participation encouraged. Of concern too is a possible resort to illegal manual scavenging, since many toilets built under the Swachh mission are not of the prescribed twin-pit design, and will need periodic evacuation. Despite widely reported cases, the Centre does not appear to be eager to eliminate manual waste removal through a war-like effort, under which all States will install sewage and sludge treatment plants. Neither are States keen to strictly enforce the law that makes the practice punishable. In the years ahead, making sanitation universal and sustainable will depend not just on toilets, but on providing decent urban and rural housing, and strengthening another key determinant of development – the right to a good education.

Aimless in Haryana

All that is wrong with the Congress comes to the fore ahead of the elections

The Congress party is in dire straits. Steamrolled by a ruthless adversary, the BJP, hollowed out ideologically, and its leaders systematically targeted by the government apparatus, this calamity should have brought everyone in the party together. But the opposite appears to be happening, as was evident in Wednesday's protest outside party president Sonia Gandhi's residence by supporters of Ashok Tanwar, the ousted chief of its Haryana State unit. The crisis in the party unit in Haryana, which is going to polls later this month, is largely self-inflicted. Mr. Tanwar, a Dalit leader with a doctorate, was hand-picked by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to lead the Haryana unit. In the five years that he was president, there were no district and block-level committees as the AICC did not allow their formation, caving in to pressure from Bhupinder Hooda, a two-term Chief Minister between 2004 and 2014. On the eve of the Assembly poll, Mr. Tanwar was replaced with Kumari Selja, also a Dalit leader and close to Mr. Hooda. That a PCC chief who put in five years of efforts could be dismissed and his tormentors who brought the party to a standstill could be rewarded sent a dispiriting message to workers. Left out in the cold in seat selection, those who remained active in the last five years hit the streets in protest.

Mr. Hooda's triumphant return at the helm of Congress affairs in the State is also indicative of a lingering inability of the party to free itself from the clutches of an old guard and an old method of doing politics. The patronage network in Haryana that flourished during Congress rule enriched individuals but pauperised the party. Mr. Gandhi tried to shake up the party but his successes were limited partly due to his inadequacies and largely because of the old guard's tight grip. Unable to tackle the task, Mr. Gandhi threw in the towel after the 2019 election, and in disarray, the party returned to Ms. Gandhi. The old Congress way – taking the path of least resistance in governance, networking vested interests as organisation and remaining ambiguous on ideological questions – can no longer be a viable model for the party. It requires infusion of fresh ideas and fresh blood at all levels and that must be the focus of Ms. Gandhi's second innings. She must use her moral authority to persuade her close colleagues for the last two decades to voluntarily step aside. They have done their bit, but they cannot pull the party up from the current abyss. They should allow a younger crop to emerge, immature and inexperienced as they are, and mentor them with the larger interests of the party in mind. That is not a sufficient condition for a revival of Congress but is certainly an essential one. Ms. Gandhi must be the catalyst of that process, but not much more.

The brick and mortar of FDI 2.0

'List or trade in India' should be used as a strategic policy tool to enable Indians to become shareholders in MNCs

NARENDRA JADHAV, VIJAY KELKAR & UMESH KUDALKAR

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI 1.0) has been welcome in India irrespective of whether or not its equity structure includes Indian public shareholding. However, the world has undergone a structural change with the emergence of Internet Multi-national Companies (MNCs) such as Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Twitter that are based on 'winner-takes-all' platform business models. These firms are characterised essentially by inequitable dynamics, since they distribute most gains to themselves *vis-à-vis* their host countries. This situation demands a policy response.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why China banned Internet MNCs. This led to China creating nine out of the 20 global Internet leaders. China strategically deploys a quid pro quo policy. MNC firms are mandated to transfer technology, share patents and enter into 50:50 joint ventures with Chinese partners in return for market access. Given our political system, India will obviously need to follow a new FDI 2.0 policy to achieve more desirable outcomes.

Rather than accepting the 'winner MNC takes it all' as fait accompli, FDI 2.0 should harmonise interests of all stakeholders including Indian consumers, the government and investors. FDI 2.0 could deploy 'List or Trade in India' as a strategic policy tool to enable Indian citizens become shareholders in MNCs such as Google, Facebook, Samsung, Huawei and others, thus capturing the 'upside' they create for their platforms and



companies. This is equitable to all, since Indian consumers contribute to the market value of MNCs.

In 1978, the Indian government adopted a policy that required equity dilution by 100% foreign-owned companies. This led to the 'Listing of MNCs', and many of which then provided handsome returns to both MNCs and Indian shareholders. It is estimated now that listing Indian subsidiaries of MNCs alone could add as much as ₹50 lakh crore to equity market capitalisation. This could make capital markets deeper and valuations more reasonable. 'List or Trade MNCs in India' could become a potent extension to 'Make in India' to disseminate prosperity. In contrast to 1978, the proposals we present here are based on incentives, more capital market-friendly and in line with the practices followed by Mexico, China, Bangladesh and other countries.

A road map for India

India could implement the following set of proposals: Proposal 1 (List in India): Majority (more than 51%) foreign-owned Indian-listed MNCs could be eligible to domestic company tax rate whereas un-

listed MNC subsidiaries could be subjected to a higher tax rate. Many countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand have used tax incentives to attract listing by MNCs.

Mexico is most successful in attracting cross listings. For example, AB InBev, Coca-Cola, Walmart and Citigroup are listed in Mexico. To ensure the success of this proposal, the government will need to reconsider the present policy of allowing 100% MNC-owned subsidiaries to compete with their listed Indian counterparts that erodes the value accruing to Indian shareholders.

Proposal 1, by itself, will not achieve the objective of increasing Indian participation in the fair value of Internet MNCs. This is because of complex issues in revenue booking that result in low profits in Indian subsidiaries. Hence, there is a need for additional initiative by way of proposal 2 to enable Indian investor participation in the ownership of parent MNCs' shares.

Proposal 2 ('Trade in India' i.e. U.S. dollar-denominated parent MNC Shares to be 'Admitted for Trading' on Indian bourses): In

Making political parties accountable

A Supreme Court judgment on non-governmental organisations throws light on the powers of an undiluted RTI



ANMOLAM & SHIVAM

Recently, the Supreme Court in *D.A.V. College Trust and Management Society Vs. Director of Public Instructions* held that non-governmental organisations which were substantially financed by the appropriate government fall within the ambit of 'public authority' under Section 2(h) of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Under this section of the RTI Act, 'public authority' means "any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted by or under the Constitution and included... any non-government organisation substantially financed directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate government."

Wide ramifications

Owing to the reasoning given by the court, the judgment can potentially have wide ramifications in the discourse pertaining to the ambit of the RTI regime on national political parties.

In *D.A.V.*, the top court held that

'substantial' means a large portion which can be both, direct or indirect. It need not be a major portion or more than 50% as no strait-jacket formula can be resorted to in this regard. For instance, if land in a city is given free of cost or at a heavily subsidised rate to hospitals, educational institutions or other bodies, it can qualify as substantial financing. The court resorted to 'purposive' interpretation of the provisions by underscoring the need to focus on the larger objective of percolation of benefits of the statute to the masses.

In 2010, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) filed an application under the RTI to all national parties, seeking information about the "10 maximum voluntary contributions" received by them in the past five years. None of the national political parties volunteered to disclose the information. Consequently, ADR and RTI activist Subhash Agarwal filed a petition with the Central Information Commission (CIC).

In 2013, a full bench of the CIC delivered a historic judgment by declaring that all national parties came under 'public authorities' and were within the purview of the RTI Act. Accordingly, they were directed to designate central public information officers (CPIOs) and the appellate authorities at



their headquarters within six weeks.

In 2013, 'The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill' was introduced in Parliament to keep political parties explicitly outside the purview of RTI that lapsed after the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. Notwithstanding the binding value of the CIC's order under Section 19(7) of the Act, none of the six political parties complied with it. Quite interestingly, all the parties were absent from the hearing when the commission issued show-cause notices for non-compliance at the hearing.

Finally, in 2019, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a declaration of political parties as 'public authority' and the matter is sub judice. Irrespective of the ideological differences among these political parties on almost all the issues under the sun, non-compliance of the RTI mandate has

this proposal, Indian investors could buy shares of parent MNCs (where global profits and value get consolidated). This can be permitted within the \$250,000 Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) limit. Indian bourses could admit only S&P 500 stocks. The Mexican Stock Exchange allows trading of international shares listed in other stock exchanges. India could replicate such models.

Mirroring Mexico

For successful implementation of Proposal 2, the Indian government may need to facilitate following measures:

- Permit Indian bourses to implement international trading system on the lines of Mexico.
- Parent MNCs in S&P 500 with business interests in India could be mandated to facilitate trading of their shares in India. MNCs would readily agree as it does not envisage listing in India.
- For taxation purposes, no distinction should be made between transactions in comparable domestic and foreign securities.
- LRS implementation for buying foreign stocks in GIFT City/NSE/BSE could be simplified and work as single click functionality.
- Educate Indian investors about the value of diversification of their portfolio in international stocks for achieving better risk adjusted returns.
- The government could facilitate access to ultra-low cost (≈0.04%) S&P 500 Index Funds such as Admiral Shares (VFAX) and ETFs using Indian e-KYC. Indian MFs charge fees from 0.54% to 2%. They are at least 13 times more expensive.

For Proposal 2, one important issue that needs to be addressed pertains to U.S. Estate taxes. For Indian citizens, U.S. estate taxes @40% apply above portfolio value of \$60,000.

To mitigate this burden, the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) could design a sovereign trust for holding parent MNC stocks. The NSDL could then issue BharatShares to retail investors. Nominees of the government of India would get voting rights in parent MNCs. In addition, the government could make available a 'Fully Disclosed Model' for holding foreign stocks in line with our NSDL/Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL) system. The prevalent 'Omnibus model' carries the risk of U.S broker default because investors' shares are held in the U.S broker's name. For this reason, it could also lead to higher tax liabilities in India.

Summing up, increasing Indian equity ownership of MNCs would offer diversification benefits and make Indians more prosperous. Wealth distribution through mutual funds would create a virtuous cycle of innovative ideas, entrepreneurship, employment, consumption, higher taxes, social and physical infrastructure for the benefit of Indian society. MNCs would earn the goodwill of Indian consumers while expanding their investor base. In other words, this is a win-win for all stakeholders.

Narendra Jadhav is a Member of the Rajya Sabha and a Trustee of the Pune International Centre. Vijay Kelkar and Umesh Kudalkar are the Vice-President and Visiting Fellow, respectively, of the Pune International Centre

Constitution.

The Law Commission opines that political parties are the lifeblood of our entire constitutional system. Political parties act as a conduit through which interests and issues of the people get represented in Parliament. Since elections are predominantly contested on party lines in our parliamentary democratic polity, the agenda of the potential government is set by them.

As noted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his famous Constituent Assembly speech, "The working of a Constitution does not depend wholly upon the nature of the Constitution. The Constitution can provide only the organs of State...The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depend are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their policies." It is hoped that the top court will further the positive advances made in this direction. Since sunlight acts as the best disinfectant and our political parties tirelessly claim themselves to be apostles of honesty and integrity, it is expected that they would walk the talk.

Anmolam is a lawyer, running a non-profit organisation, BDLAAW. Shivam is a research scholar at the faculty of law, Delhi University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Sanitation claim

The announcement by the Prime Minister on sanitation cannot sound more hollow in the wake of the murders of two Dalit children last month for defecating in the open. Though the Prime Minister is perpetually trying to present a rosy picture of the nation in the international arena, the ground-level realities are quite otherwise (Page 1, "Prime Minister Modi declares country open defecation-free", October 3). There might be a significant increase in sanitation facilities, continued usage of toilets in rural areas but success depends on the availability of water as well as definite behavioural changes. That being so, ever-widening income inequalities made possible by government policies and the fact that disparity and untouchability are still prevalent show that the country has still a long way to go in achieving 'ODF' status. Mere proclamations might enthuse supporters

of the Central government, but saner minds understand that much remains to be accomplished.

G. B. SIVANANDAM,
Coimbatore

■ The illegal and inhuman way in which the local administration, especially in some northern States, has gone ahead to fulfil targets "assigned from the top" has not only subverted constitutional values but also the principles of barest civic morality (OpEd, "Miles to go before becoming open defecation-free", October 3). It has been inevitable that those who are marginalised have been made to suffer in the fulfilment of this campaign. It is unfortunate that we are being sold lies and brutality in the name of celebrating a man known for upholding the values of truth and non-violence.

FIROZ AHMAD,
New Delhi

■ The claim can be challenged. Though the government has undertaken the responsibility of building

toilets in rural and urban areas, the point is this: how many in a household use it? Toilets may have been built but if there are still people who prefer to defecate in the open, it shows the lack of change in behaviour and education about the importance of having a clean and healthy environment.

JAGYASINI BURMA,
Cuttack, Odisha

■ Allocation and distribution of funds to building toilets are not enough. Monitoring is also a must. The government should review the list of beneficiaries and check whether there has been a change in behaviour. There may not be open defecation in surveillance areas. The fact is that a majority in rural India still lack proper toilet facilities.

SOBHANA P.S.,
Vandiperiyar, Idukki, Kerala

■ The government cannot ignore that fact that overcoming water problems, septic tank cleaning, stopping manual scavenging and faecal management are also an integral part of the

process of declaring India to be open defecation-free. There cannot be an announcement made with closed eyes for mere political gain and global attention. There needs to be an abolition of manual scavenging, the use of data, the use of robotics to clean faecal storage areas and a linkage with the Ayushman Bharat programme.

K. KESAVAN,
Chennai

Discourse shift

Objectivity becomes a casualty when political commentary and economic analysis are scaffolded on ideological opposition (Editorial page, "Decoding the corporate-Hindutva alliance", October 3). The so-called "corporate-Hindutva alliance" appears to be an exaggerated caricature of two distinct developments that seem unrelated to each other. Corporate tax cuts are one-off short-term measures that are aimed at boosting private investments that can spur economic revival. True, whether corporate

beneficiaries of lower tax rates will invest the surplus in job-creating ventures remains to be seen. But to prognosticate a doomsday scenario of market contraction appears a needlessly pessimistic conjecture. Hyphenation of political projects such as nationalism and measures to stimulate the sluggish economy and labelling tax cuts as a transfer of resources from the poor to the rich bristle with conspiratorial undertones. Economic expertise will serve the nation if it is channelled towards suggesting proposals to revive the economy instead of frittering it away scoring political points.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Though there is a reluctant acceptance of an economic slowdown, the issues are not acknowledged, not to speak of their being addressed. What is more worrying is the indifference of sections of the media towards the brewing crisis. Every other day, newer "ideas" are being

thrown up and operation-diversion keeps going on merrily. Fake news, false videos and concocted stories going 'viral' on social media appeal. If globalisation individualised society, right-wing nationalism is working overtime to fasten minds to a regressive ideology.

S.V. VENUGOPALAN,
Chennai

NEET case

The manner in which the NEET impersonation case is unravelling speaks volumes about the extent of the slack in security arrangements at examination centres. Can this be treated merely as a security lapse or much more is the question that remains to be answered. It is, certainly a matter of shame that some have defeated the very objective and purpose of conducting such an examination. Such dreadful incidents only show that anything and everything is possible in India with money and money alone.

J. EDEN ALEXANDER,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

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Co-operative banks: Is dual regulation the problem?

PARLEY

Coming under both RBI and State Registrars, these banks pose specific supervisory challenges

In late September, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on withdrawals from the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, one of the largest urban cooperative lenders. Over the past week, bank customers have been in a state of panic and the central bank has sought to assuage concerns about the banking sector's health. Usha Thorat and S. Mahendra Dev discuss the measures needed to restore confidence among customers in a conversation moderated by Vikas Dhoot. Edited excerpts:

How are cooperatives overseen and what could have allowed the PMC Bank to get away with such large bad loans for years?

Usha Thorat: One needs to go back to history. Cooperative banks came directly under the RBI's radar in 1966 but faced the problem of dual regulation. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) is in control of management elections and many administrative issues as well as auditing. And the RBI brought them under the Banking Regulation Act as applicable to cooperative societies, which included all the regulatory aspects, namely, the granting of the licence, maintaining cash reserve, statutory liquidity and capital adequacy ratios, and inspection of these banks. So, in a sense, urban cooperative banks have been under the radar of the RBI, but because of dual regulation, one always had a feeling that one did not have as much control over these banks in terms of supercession of boards or removal of directors, as the RBI has over private sector banks.

The Madhavapura Mercantile Cooperative Bank issue turned out to be huge because it had a significant percentage of its assets as loans to Ketan Parekh, not unlike the case we are seeing now. And because it was an active bank in liquidity and money markets, Madhavapura used to provide liquidity to many other banks, so a huge number of cooperative banks had deposits with Madhavapura. So, a closure of that bank would have meant the closure of several other banks too. There was a lot of talk between the RBI, and the Central and Gujarat governments and a package was put together for

Madhavapura. It was challenged, but finally it did go through with a staggered repayment of deposits and infusion of funds from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). I don't recall whether the legal challenge was finally disposed of.

Why I am talking of Madhavapura is that maybe some parts of its resolution can be examined today. After this episode, RBI decided to squarely deal with the problems of cooperative banks. It issued a vision document in 2004-05 and stopped all licences of new branches and new bank entities. There was a proliferation of licences issued between 1991 and 1998. Under the vision document, a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the RBI with each of the States, where the State accepted an audit by professional auditors, and constituted a Task Force for urban cooperative banks. The TAFUCB was co-chaired by the RCS and the RBI Regional Director and was required to provide a bank-by-bank solution to those banks that were not maintaining minimum capital ratios. Not giving any new licences or new branches also pushed existing cooperative banks to come forth to take over the weak ones. This worked very well and a number of cooperative banks were delicensed, merged or liquidated. By 2017-18, as stated in the RBI Financial Stability Report, there were only four urban cooperative banks with capital adequacy ratios below the regulated threshold.

Given this background, what do you think led to the PMC Bank crisis? Was it because of some regulatory aspects falling between the two stools of the RBI and RCS?

UT: I don't think so. As I said, there was a forum for the RBI and the RCS to work together. Moreover, since 2004, a number of banks have been brought under all-inclusive directions where there have been significant weaknesses. So, the RBI has been taking action when it is clear that a bank is not able to carry on its operations in a manner that protects the interests of the depositors. But in PMC's case, it is a fraud, total hiding [of the problem] – a huge ex-



ARUNANESU ROY CHOWDHURY

posure to a single entity in the real estate sector was camouflaged under a whole lot of dummy accounts. Reporting to RBI and probably the auditors too was false. So, primarily, the CEO and the Board are responsible. It is not due to dual regulation.

How could this happen? Does this throw up fresh challenges on the kind of information the RBI should be looking for? Should it be doing a forensic audit? Is it possible to do this for more than 1,400 urban cooperative banks? How do you realise there is a problem brewing? I think there is a serious need to understand how the exposure was camouflaged, how did this not get reflected in other returns filed, etc.

Professor Dev, given the role played by cooperative banks over the years to extend credit in rural India, what do you make of suggestions that they may have outlived their utility?

S. Mahendra Dev: Cooperative institutions play a significant role in credit delivery to unbanked segments and financial inclusion. But their role has declined with the expansion of scheduled commercial banks and adoption of technology. Even urban cooperative lenders are facing competition from payment banks, small finance banks, and NBFCs (non-banking finance companies). We have about 1,500 urban cooperatives, but there are nearly 96,000 rural banks, including primary agriculture credit societies. Long-term credit extended by them is declining, but there is still a role in agriculture for rural cooperative societies. On the urban front, however, there is a need for change partly because of some of these scams that Ms. Thorat mentioned.

In the case of PMC Bank, as per

The challenge in banking supervision and regulation lies in knowing the quality and engagement of the Board, the key personnel and their conflicts of interest and connections.

RBI, there are three problems – major financial irregularities, failure of internal control and systems, and underreporting of exposures. It is well known that PMC Bank has extended 73% of its assets to HDIL, which has created a panicky situation for depositors. The RBI has had to clarify that Indian banking is safe. The problem is, of course, dual control by the RBI and the RCS, with the State government also playing a role and politics sometimes entering the space. The management, Board and auditors are responsible. It's a governance and transparency issue that also affects public sector banks, private banks, and NBFCs.

So, what should be done? I am in favour of merging and converting some of the cooperative banks to small finance banks. The RBI has announced a scheme for voluntary transition of urban cooperative banks into small finance banks, in line with the recommendations of a high-powered committee chaired by former Deputy Governor of the RBI, R. Gandhi. This would enable them to have most of the products available with commercial banks, and help get a pan-India presence. But there are many conditions on share capital, loan sizes and loans to priority sector. So, you can't convert all of them but there can be a gradual move towards that.

Ms. Thorat, do you think small finance banks would be better governed?

UT: Let's again look at the things the RBI has tried to do in the last four-five years. First, there was a committee under H. Malesgam which recommended a board of management of fit and proper persons, other than the board of directors. Directors are elected by members and very often the borrowers get to nominate their own persons, while depositors are not really represented as these banks accept deposits from non-members. So, the idea was to have a board of management in actual control of operations as opposed to elected directors. I think this must be done immediately as an incentive for those who want to continue to grow. We should perhaps tell these banks, you must put this in place, otherwise there will be no more branch licences and we can impose restrictions on your loan book. There must be a push for a fit and proper management, otherwise the elected director can get away with fraud. Then all we can do is cope with the aftermath of his or her actions.

Having said that, you will find that a majority of the cooperative banks have been doing a good job – meeting the needs of small businesses and even rural credit – very much what we call inclusive finance. Just about 50 or 60 of these 1,500 banks are large. So the RBI's supervisory resources have to be really focused on these larger banks mostly operating across the country like commercial banks.

Second, the RBI has given the choice to urban cooperative banks to convert to small finance banks. That option is there for those players with more than ₹50 crore capital and 15% capital adequacy. This is an incentive as they will then be able to grow their capital by issuing shares at a premium. Today, the biggest hurdle for an urban cooperative bank is to raise capital. For them, the RBI might like to incentivise conversion into small finance banks. It can say that for further growth the larger urban cooperative banks should either appoint a board of management that meets the RBI's norms for fit and proper or become small finance banks. The challenge in banking supervision and regulation lies in knowing the quality and engagement of the Board, the key personnel and their conflicts of interest and connections.

Third, RBI has also said that for urban cooperative banks there

could be an umbrella organisation promoted by the banks themselves to raise capital as a joint stock company can from the markets.

This incident poses a challenge for supervision. It comes back to how exposures can be hidden, which can be done in any bank or NBFC, not just a cooperative. The supervision system should be able to catch much more underreporting or false reporting and ensure accountability of the Board and the auditors. Criminal action has been initiated against the managing director, but what about all the directors? Is it possible that the directors or the Board were not aware of the exposure? In any case they are liable.

I think we should also look at the extent of deposits of other cooperative banks in such large urban cooperative banks. Perhaps it is time to review whether an urban cooperative bank should accept deposits of other urban cooperative banks. Because this means depositors of smaller banks may also suffer.

The frequency and intensity of supervision has to be clearly based on the size of the bank and the assessment made of the governance standards in the banks. All banks – small finance banks, cooperative banks and leveraged institutions like NBFCs – are open to the risk of poor governance. There is no option but to look at the fit and proper character of the directors.

Demonetisation helped push a lot of cash savings into the formal financial sector. But given this fresh crisis of confidence among bank customers, what can the government and the regulator do to restore their faith?

SMD: Many depositors opt for cooperative banks because they give a higher interest rate. Even the RBI's staff cooperative has deposits parked with PMC. The confidence comes from governance and regulation. RBI has been urging cooperative lenders to act professionally. We need confidence-building for all banks, not just for cooperatives, but even NBFCs. A recent study showed that small cooperatives are doing better in terms of non-performing assets and other aspects, while large urban cooperatives are not doing well. So, we have to look at how to supervise large cooperatives better.



Usha Thorat
is former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India



S. Mahendra Dev
is director at the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research



Scan the QR code to watch the full interview online

All creatures great and small

It has become clear that the welfare of humans and other animals is closely interlinked

AMBIKA HIRANANDANI

World Animal Rights Day falls on October 4. It coincides with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of animals and the environment. As far back as the 12th century, he recognised the importance of extending compassion towards animals. Today, with the help of scientific inquiry we have learnt that it is in our best interest to extend compassion to other living beings, be it by protecting their habitats or refraining from intensively farming them. It has become increasingly clear that the welfare of humans and other animals is closely interlinked.

Pressing problems

Consider, for example, the bee, whose population is declining at an alarming rate today because of climate change, pesticides and habitat loss. Bees pollinate 70 of nearly 100 crop species that feed 90% of the world. Insects help in the decomposition of organic materials, including bodies of the dead, and enrich the soil. Dung beetles evolved 65 million years ago and, as their name suggests, eat dung, recycle nutrients and improve the quality of the soil. Half of the world's species are insects, so if insects go extinct, the consequence would be complete degradation of our soil consequently leading to the disappearance of all remaining life.

A second dimension of concern for animal rights centres on farming. We keep billions of animals intensively confined in factory farms for meat, eggs and dairy. There are serious repercussions of these practices, both for animals and humans. Hens kept in battery cage farms see the sun twice in their lives – once on the way to the farm and the second on the way to the slaughterhouse. These factory farms are responsible for the formation of dead pools around them, have a massive odour, and attract pests. The people who live in the vicinity of these farms suffer from several health issues including breathing problems. Hence, while it may make financial sense to cram animals into factory farms, the consequences can be considerable. To mitigate this, the system of intensive farm animal pro-

duction needs to become more humane and less exploitative, for both animals and people. Governments can take a first step by prohibiting the cruelty of battery cages.

The deleterious impact of animal agriculture, including pastoral activities, is captured in research that shows that the Amazon fires were caused by ranchers who wanted to use the land for cattle grazing and farming. Indian forests are also being degraded by the excessive pressure of animal agriculture. The United Nations has found that "livestock production is one of the major causes of the world's most pressing environmental problems, including global warming, land degradation, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity".

Animal welfare

Our legal system treats animals as if they are non-sentient commodities that can be owned and disposed by people. Animal husbandry has an entire department dedicated to it. Thousands of crores are invested in slaughterhouses. Conversely, animal welfare is relegated to one board, which must look after the welfare of billions of animals in the country. Policy reform in this space is such a low priority that while parking fines are at least ₹10,000 in Mumbai, the penalty for beating an animal in India is ₹50. It is time for our government to depute a Ministry and budget for the welfare of animals.

Animal lives can be saved by commercialising the innovations of plant-based and cultured or clean meat. Clean meat is grown in a lab from a small sample of cells taken from an animal. Both plant-based meat and clean meat are free of the negative externalities that animal meat production is responsible for, such as climate change, and are healthier as they are also free of antibiotics.

We hold the future of billions of animals in our hands. We have an opportunity to translate our philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* into action. We must act in our collective best interest.

Ambika Hiranandani is a lawyer, animal rights activist and environmentalist



NOTEBOOK

The multilingual advantage

It helps to speak in many tongues to get authentic reporting done

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

For journalists who seek to report from various parts of the country, apart from the usual tools and skillsets that are required, having a grasp over many languages helps. When covering subjects that relate to livelihood, the ability to converse, listen and understand in the lingo that people are most comfortable with often brings about authentic reporting.

A case in point was when I visited Wayanad three years ago to file a special report on the fledgling Maoist presence in the tri-junction of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This area has a substantial tribal population. The assignment was challenging despite the fact that I grew up in many parts of India and can speak four languages – Tamil (my mother tongue), English, Hindi and Bengali – relatively well.

The tribals whom I went to interview were understandably tight-lipped and chary of talking to journalists. Besides, those who were inclined to speak after some prodding and confidence-building could not speak English, and knowing Hindi was of no avail as Kerala is among the States with the fewest Hindi speakers. Thankfully, my colleague, Visual Editor Dinesh Krishnan, who joined me in the assignment as the photojournalist, is from Kerala and helped me get over this barrier.

Apart from the tribals, one of the poorer set of residents in the area who had then been frequented by the Maoists for ideological propaganda and possible recruitment were Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka. They had been living there for decades. In this case, it was my ability to converse in my mother tongue with the residents that made it

possible for them to open up about their travails. This helped us garner insights into why the Maoists had sought to tap into the grievances in the area. A young mother mentioned how the Maoists during their infrequent visits, unlike government representatives, also spoke in Tamil with them. A sly listener nearby asked in Tamil if we were Maoists and I had to show them our identity cards to confirm that we were indeed journalists.

As we wrapped up our interviews with the tribals, politicians and police officials, we found that we needed good photographs to capture the cat-and-mouse game playing out between law enforcement agencies and the Maoists in the area. We decided to take pictures of the officers of the special anti-Naxalite division of the Tamil Nadu police in action as they went about their daily

combing routine. The police officials we spoke to asked us to get permission from a senior officer in the district headquarters in Ooty. But the senior official was not keen to give us permission, despite my best efforts to persuade him. Just as I was about to give up and leave, Dinesh noticed that he was from Andhra Pradesh and promptly took over the beseeching duties by talking in Telugu. After giving us a fresh hearing, the kind official gave us permission.

In a country with such a multitude of languages and where citizens feel the most comfortable in interacting in their own tongues, it helps to know and learn more languages and not limit ourselves to just one, that too an imposed one. Our experience told us that the concept of "one nation, one language" would fail the test of convenience.

The  **Hindu.**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1969

Relevance of Gandhiji's ideals

Miss Angie Brooks, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi before the Assembly began its general debate yesterday, said his thoughts and ideals were as relevant to problems before the U.N. today [October 3] as they were in relation to the goals and objectives Mahatma Gandhi pursued in his day. "It is therefore only fitting that we should respectfully recall the memory of this great visionary and leader who will long continue to be a constant inspiration to all of us." The Gandhi centenary was observed by the United Nations yesterday with the President of the Assembly as well as the Chairmen of the various committees of the United Nations paying tribute to the apostle of non-violence at the opening of the session. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, told the Assembly that it was significant that the three causes for which Gandhi struggled non-violently throughout his life were also the three with which the United Nations Charter concerns itself: discrimination, decolonisation and economic development benefiting the underprivileged everywhere.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1919.

Purse to Mr. Gandhi by Women.

Bombay, October 3. – Under the auspices of the Bhagini Samaj, a public meeting of Indian women was held yesterday afternoon in Vanita Vishram Hall to present to Mr. M.K. Gandhi a purse collected by subscription in honour of his silver jubilee. The proceedings were in vernacular. Lady Jugmohandas presided in the absence of Mrs. J.B. Petit, and read her address. In it Mrs. Petit said that they owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Gandhi for his great efforts in ameliorating the condition of womanhood of India which they could not adequately repay. The question of presenting him with a purse was taken up to mark their appreciation of the ideals which he had placed before them. The sum was not big but the spirit in which it was collected would make up for the smallness of the amount. The purse contained Rs. 20,100 and Rs. 7000 more were to be realised. The purse was presented to Mr. Gandhi amidst cheers. In accepting it Mr. Gandhi said that he was grateful to them for what they had done for him on his birthday and he would utilise the sum for some object for the amelioration of the condition of Indian womanhood after careful consideration and would ask for suggestions from them.

FROM PAGE ONE

Hasina to focus on economic agenda

Ms. Hasina is expected to take up the Ganga barrage issue which has been stuck because of mutual differences. It is expected that issues like NRC are also likely to come up during the discussions.

A high-level Bangladesh source pointed out that Dhaka recognises there is considerable divergence between the assurances given by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on NRC and the statements by Home Minister Amit Shah.

The NRC exercise in Assam left out 1.9 million people out of the list of citizens and subsequently Mr. Jaishankar said the future of these NRC-excluded is an internal matter of India.

However Mr. Shah has repeatedly asserted that the NRC-excluded people will not find space in India.

“We understand that the diplomatic comments on the issue are made keeping in mind Prime Minister Modi’s growing global stature. And we are aware of the greater political clout of the Indian Home Minister who caters to the domestic audience driven by the ideology of Hindutva,” said the source. He said the NRC would have remained an internal issue of India if it was contained after the Assam chapter and warned of its negative fallout for the South Asian region.

Chidambaram moves Supreme Court for bail

The High Court had denied Mr. Chidambaram bail on the basis of submissions by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, which was also reflected in a ‘sealed cover’ report, that two material witnesses in the case were “approached” and told not to disclose information concerning Mr. Chidambaram and his son Karti.

“The petitioner [Chidambaram] categorically states that at no point in time, whether prior to the lodging of the FIR dated May 15, 2017 or thereafter, has he approached or influenced any of the alleged material witnesses (accused) or even attempted to do so, directly or indirectly,” the petition said.

proached is not supported by material to show “any personal meeting at any given place or any other form of communication (such as SMS, email, letter, telephone calls, etc.), which could lend any credibility to the allegation made in the sealed cover.”

Neither had the investigating agencies made such a claim in any of the past six remand applications to the court. The petition said the allegation was only meant to prejudice Mr. Chidambaram’s case for bail.

Special Correspondent reports:

The trial court judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar extended Mr. Chidambaram’s judicial remand.

“The investigation is still pending. It is informed that the bail application of the accused has been dismissed by the Delhi High Court on September 30. Considering the facts mentioned in the application [by the CBI] there is no change in the circumstances as noted in the earlier orders, the judicial remand of the accused is extended,” the special judge said in his order.

‘Demonstrably false’

It said the allegation was made in a sealed cover and thus did not give him an opportunity to show it was “demonstrably false.”

“The liberty of the petitioner has thus been denied on the basis of the above baseless, anonymous and unverified allegation made behind the petitioner’s back,” the petition said.

That witnesses were ap-

Tarigami not allowed to attend Delhi meet

After two failed visits to Srinagar when he had to return from the airport itself, Mr. Yechury filed a *habeas corpus* petition in the Supreme Court, following which he was allowed to travel to Mr. Tarigami’s residence on August 29.

Based on Mr. Yechury’s report on Mr. Tarigami’s health condition, the apex court ordered that he be brought to Delhi for a check-up and follow-up treatment at the AIIMS.

Shifted to AIIMS

He was shifted to the AIIMS on September 9 and he re-

turned to Srinagar on September 19. Before leaving for the State, Mr. Tarigami confirmed that he would return to the Capital to attend the central committee meeting.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde and S.A. Nazeer had in their final order said, “If he intends to move around any part of Srinagar, where there are restrictions or prohibitions to move, he will be free to do so subject to requisite permission from the district authorities.”

Five SC judges recuse from Navlakha case

However, the CJI withdrew from the case. The one-line order said, “List the matter before a Bench wherein one of us, Justice Ranjan Gogoi (CJ) is not a member.”

The CJI, lawyers in the case said, may have recused himself because of the paucity of time.

The CJI, who is retiring on November 17, wants to entirely focus on the Ayodhya appeals.

He heads the Constitution Bench, which is hearing the appeals all day from Monday to Friday. The Bench intends to finish the hearing by October 18.

The Navlakha plea then came up for hearing before another Bench comprising Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai on October 1. Though the expression of reluctance

to hear the case seems to have come from Justice Gavai in the courtroom, the court’s order later showed that all the three judges did not want to hear the case. The one-line order read, “List on October 3 before a Bench of which none of us are members.”

The petition then came up for admission before the third three-judge Bench.

Mr. Navlakha has moved the SC against the Bombay HC decision to reject his plea to quash the FIR against him in the Bhima Koregaon case.

On September 13, the High Court granted him protection from arrest for two weeks to approach the Supreme Court in appeal.

The FIR filed by the Pune police accuses Mr. Navlakha of links with naxal groups.

Tawde, Khadse missing in BJP’s penultimate list

Party announces names for 143 seats; Pawar claims some may join Opposition

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday released its third list of candidates for the October 21 elections to the Maharashtra Assembly. The names of Education Minister Vinod Tawde and former ministers Prakash Mehta and Eknath Khadse were conspicuous by their absence in the list.

The party named Kashi-ram Pawara, Mallikarjun Reddy, Parinay Phuke and Ramesh Singh Thakur as its candidates from Shirpur, Ramtek, Sakoli and Malad West respectively. With this, the BJP has announced candidates for 143 seats. With less than 24 hours to go for the filing of nominations to end, 95 of these candidates had filed their papers till Thursday evening.

As many as 15 nominations were filed on Thursday, including by BJP State president Chandrakant Patil. The party is still expected to announce candidates for at least three more seats. “We are expecting Chief Minister



Son shine: Shiv Sena candidate Aaditya Thackeray on way to file his nomination for the Assembly poll in Mumbai on Thursday. Aaditya is Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray’s son. ■EMMANUEL YOGINI

Devendra Fadnavis, finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and housing minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil to file nominations by tomorrow,” said senior party spokesperson Madhav Bhandari.

Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar hinted at the possibility of some of the excluded BJP leaders joining the Opposition’s ranks.

The NCP chief said he had been in touch with Mr. Khadse in the past three

months, a charge the latter rejected. In its first list, the BJP named 90 sitting MLAs, while dropping 12. Mr. Khadse and Mr. Mehta are among the high profile leaders whose names are missing. Both former ministers faced charges of corruption.

Cong., NCP candidates

Meanwhile, the Congress and NCP finalised names of 37 and 20 candidates on Thursday. Ashish Deshmukh, a former BJP MLA now with

the Congress, will take on Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur South West constituency. The party has also changed candidates for Nandurbar (ST) and Sillod in Aurangabad.

Mr. Deshmukh, son of former senior Congress leader Ranjeet Deshmukh, had contested as BJP candidate from Katol in 2014 and defeated his uncle Anil Deshmukh (NCP). He, however, resigned before the Lok Sabha polls and joined Congress.

Miffed Sanjay Nirupam to skip Congress campaign

He protests ticket denial for supporter

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

In yet another blow to the Congress before elections, former MP and ex-Mumbai president Sanjay Nirupam on Thursday announced his decision to not participate in the party’s election campaign for the assembly polls to be held on October 21.

“It seems Congress party doesn’t want my services anymore. I had recommended just one name in Mumbai for Assembly election. Heard that even that has been rejected. As I had told the leadership earlier, in that case I will not participate in poll campaign. It’s my final decision,” Mr. Nirupam tweeted on Thursday evening.

When asked whether he will quit the party, Mr. Nirupam said, “I hope that the day has not yet come to say good bye to party. But the



Sanjay Nirupam

way leadership is behaving with me, it doesn’t seem far away.”

In the run-up to Lok Sabha polls as well, Mr. Nirupam was shunted out from the party’s Mumbai president post and the reins were handed over to Milind Deora. Incidentally, Mr. Deora had resigned from the post after the party’s rout in the elections.

According to sources, Mr. Nirupam had sought a ticket in Mumbai’s Versova constituency for his supporter.

Amidst bitter factional fight, Congress releases Haryana list

Supporters of former Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ashok Tanwar protest outside Sonia Gandhi’s residence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday officially released the party’s list of candidates for the upcoming Assembly election in Haryana amidst a bitter factional fight that had reached party chief Sonia Gandhi’s

doorstep in national capital.

Prominent names include former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, former Congress Legislature Party chief Kiran Chaudhary, party’s chief spokesperson Ran- deep Surjewala and elder son of former CM Bhajan Lal

Chander Mohan.

On Wednesday, supporters of the former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Ashok Tanwar protested outside Ms. Gandhi’s 10 Janpath residence over the distribution of tickets for the polls.

As party workers, loyal to the former PCC chief, shouted slogans against Mr. Hooda, party’s election management chief, and Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is in charge for the State.

Mr. Tanwar alleged that workers were ignored and

tickets were being given on whims and fancies.

Last month, the Congress had replaced Mr. Tanwar and appointed Kumari Selja as the chief of its Haryana unit and Mr. Hooda as chairperson of the election management committee.

Mr. Hooda had come out against Mr. Tanwar - appointed by the former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in 2014 - and blamed him for the Congress failing to win a single Lok Sabha seat in the State in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Court reserves verdict on plea challenging 2018 SC/ST Amendment Act

‘We will not be touching anything’

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its judgment in a batch of petitions challenging the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act of 2018, which nullified a controversial March 20, 2018 apex court judgment diluting the stringent provisions of the Dalit protection law.

The Supreme Court has itself recalled its March 20 judgment on October 1, 2019 in a review petition filed by the government. It said it was wrong on the part of the March 20 judgment to treat all SC/ST community members as “a liar or crook”. It was against “basic human dignity”. The March 20 judgment had diluted the original 1989 legislation, saying they were using its provisions to file false criminal complaints against innocent persons.

ments, saying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continue to face the same social stigma, poverty and humiliation to which they have been subjected for centuries.

Huge backlash

The 2018 Act nullified a March 20 judgment of the Supreme Court, which allowed anticipatory bail to those booked for committing atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes members. The original 1989 Act bars anticipatory bail. The apex court verdict saw a huge backlash across the country. Several died in ensuing protests and crores worth of property was destroyed. The government reacted by filing a review petition in the Supreme Court and subsequently amended the 1989 Act back into its original form.

Several petitions were filed challenging the 2018 Amendment Act. The lead petitioner, advocate Prithvi Raj Chauhan, even called the amendments a “blunder” and a violation of the fundamental right to equality and personal liberty. The Supreme Court however had refused to stay the implementation of the amendments.

‘No decrease’

The government had responded that there was no decrease in the atrocities committed on members of SC/ST communities, despite the laws meant to protect their civil rights.

The third eye



Closer look: Army personnel displaying surveillance equipment at the 22nd India International Security Expo 2019 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Thursday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Crisis blows over for Manipur CM Biren Singh

BJP high command decides against leadership change in the State

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appears to have tided over the crisis he was facing after the BJP high command decided against any change of leadership in the State. According to top party officials, Mr. Singh and other MLAs had met with BJP president Amit Shah, working president J. P. Nadda and general secretary, organisation, B.L. Santhosh late on Wednesday evening and had received a patient hearing from all three.

Mr. Singh had been facing dissidence from within his own government and also protests over the Citizenship

Amendment Bill (CAB), which Home Minister Shah had declared would be introduced soon prior to undertaking a National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in several parts of the country.

Cabinet reshuffle

The BJP leadership told Mr. Singh that a senior leader from Delhi would be sent to Manipur soon to settle the internal issues within the party, including possibly effecting a Cabinet reshuffle in the State that could go a long way in calming tempers.

Given the protests against the proposed CAB in the State, some dissidents have been raising this as an issue

that requires sensitive handling. According to senior BJP leaders who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Mr. Shah has given an assurance that there would be nothing done to affect the culture and rights of the indigenous population in the State. But, while the hill areas are protected under Article 371(c) of the Constitution, those residing in the valley, the Sanamahi and Hindu Meiteis, are both said to be sensitive over the issue.

Easing Meitei concerns

The Manipur Assembly had passed the Manipur People’s Protection Bill, 2018, in July last year aimed at providing

protection to the Meiteis in the valley. That measure is still pending with Rashtrapati Bhavan. The State unit is hoping that the Bill gets Presidential assent thus helping the party to counter some of the negative perception over the CAB in the State.

Influx fears

The CAB aims at providing a path to Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis and Buddhists fleeing religious persecution in India’s neighbouring countries. With a porous border with Bangladesh, north eastern States are nervous that it could lead to an influx of Bengali Hindus.

Right to worship is a civil right, says Hindu side

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In the Ayodhya appeals before the Supreme Court on Thursday, the Hindu side argued that Skanda Purana, which pre-dates the Mughal period, refers to Janmasthan as a religious site.

Quoting verses from the Skanda Purana to a Constitu-

tion Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, senior advocate P.S. Narasimha argued that right to worship is a civil right.

The right to worship is based on the preponderance of probability. He was referring to the Hindu version that the disputed area has always been believed to be the

birthplace of Lord Ram.

Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan reiterated that there was “proof beyond doubt” that a “massive structure” pre-existed the demolished Babri Masjid. The materials excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India provide a clear inference to that effect. Mr. Vaidya-

nathan submitted that the Muslim parties’ claim that a structure beneath the disputed structure was an idgah wall or an Islamic structure was incorrect. “We say that it was a temple which was demolished and the pillar bases found during excavation also suggest to this effect,” Mr. Vaidyanathan submitted.



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WWS



Up in arms: Journalists protesting against the communication blockade in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Scribes protest against blockade

Journalists stage sit-in to press for restoration of Internet, mobile phone services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Kashmir-based journalist organisations and editors’ bodies on Thursday staged a silent sit-in protest at the Kashmir Press Club (KPC) to register their protest against continued denial to internet services and mobile telephone.

“The peaceful protest was to press for the restoration of Internet and mobile services to journalists as the communication blockade entered the 60th day on Thursday,” said a joint statement of 11 organisations, including scribes’ organisations and editors’ bodies.

‘Muzzling the Press’
The statement termed the blockade an attempt to muzzle the Press in the valley.

Civilian killed on LoC in Uri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

One civilian was killed in a fresh violation of ceasefire by the Pakistan Army on the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla’s Uri on Thursday, a day ahead of the separatist Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front’s call for a march from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

“Limiting the access of media to a government-run hall at a private hotel, designated as Media Facilitation Centre, is to prevent the information out of the Valley,” it read.

The media centre has just nine computers and a cell-phone connection for over

towards Srinagar.

An Army official said the civilian died of splinter injuries after Pakistan resorted to shelling in the Uri Sector’s Rustum Post in the afternoon.

The identity of the deceased could not be established immediately. The Army said it retaliated in a “befitting manner”.

400 journalists. “We have to queue up every day and spend hours together to file our reports. Wi-fi service is barred. Despite all journalists entering their names, no laptop is allowed to connect with the Internet service independently,” a Kashmir

Working Journalist Association member, Ishfaq Tantray, said. No Valley-based dailies, including the prominent ‘Greater Kashmir’, or web portals, including the widely-read ‘Kashmir Life’, have updated their websites since August 5 due to inaccessibility to the Internet. “There are no internet editions or updates on the web-portals in Kashmir,” the statement added.

The Kashmir Press Club has held several rounds of talks with the authorities on the issue. “The authorities promised to restore mobile phone services and Internet two weeks ago. However, there is no headway. The government is silent on the timeline as to when the services will be restored,” the KPC members said.

Classes empty as schools reopen in J&K

Presence of security personnel keeps students, teachers away from classrooms

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The J&K government on Thursday re-opened all higher secondary schools across the Valley, after 60 days of closure, only to a very negligible attendance by students, while teachers complained of several structures being occupied by the security forces.

Srinagar’s prominent government-run Sri Pratap Higher Secondary School at Lal Chowk wore a deserted look, with no student presence on its sprawling campus. Just two students without uniform appeared from the nearby Barbar Shah area to know the status of the school.



Fear factor: An empty classroom at a school in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

“I was shocked to see a security bullet-proof picket come up at the gate. I was stopped by the security personnel and questioned. I immediately left the premises,” the students said, on the

condition of anonymity.

Top officials of the school told *The Hindu* that no attendance of students was recorded. “We have around 1,500 students in the school. A very negligible number

turned up. We decided not to hold any classes. However, teachers met to chalk out the future course of action,” school authorities said.

The teachers said around 500 security personnel had been stationed at the main building of the school after the August 5 decision to revoke J&K’s special status. “Security personnel need to be vacated so that students feel safe in the school,” said a teacher.

There was a similar scene at the all-girls Government Kothi Bagh Higher Secondary school, another prominent educational institution. “We are hopeful that attendance will improve in coming days,” said an official.

‘Railways will help achieve \$5 trillion economy goal’



A view of the Vande Bharat Express, which will ply from New Delhi to Vaishno Devi, Jammu. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Thursday that Mahatma Gandhi used the railway network to connect with people and gain independence. He was speaking at the inauguration of a Vande Bharat Express train.

“Bapu used the railways to connect with people. During one such journey, when he saw a woman without prop-

er clothes, he donated his clothes and vowed to lead a frugal life till he attained prosperity for his country... the Independence struggle got momentum as he used railway journeys to send his message across. In the same way, railways will be an important tool in achieving the \$5 trillion economy goal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” he said.

The new train will cut the

Indo-Chinese educational tie-ups need nod from Home, foreign Ministries

The directive comes just ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indian educational institutions that plan to collaborate with Chinese counterparts must now get clearance from the Ministries of Home and External Affairs before signing any agreements or undertaking student and faculty exchange programmes. The new guidelines would also apply to existing tie-ups, the University Grants Commission made clear this week.

The Centre’s directive comes just ahead of Chinese president Xi Jinping’s visit to India to hold an informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is expected to take place at Mallapuram on October 11 and 12.

In a letter to the vice chancellors of all universities, UGC secretary Rajnish Jain notified them of a directive from the Human Resource



Chinese students reciting a song during their National Day celebrations in Coimbatore recently. ■ M.PERIASAMY

Development Ministry. “In addition to other clearances, prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs must be taken by all the academic institutions and universities before signing of MoUs, educational exchange programme, agreements, joint declaration of intent or letter of intent with Chinese institutions or universities,”

the ministry said in its directive.

The UGC letter added that those universities – including private universities – which have already entered into MoUs must seek clearance from the Home ministry for operating the MoU. Until the clearance is obtained, no further activities should be performed under the MoU, warned the letter.

A number of Indian universities already have faculty and student exchange programmes, apart from Chinese language centres run in collaboration with universities in China, although the exact number of such agreements is not known.

India and China signed an umbrella agreement for educational cooperation in 2006, under which government scholarships are awarded to 25 students, by both sides, in recognised institutions of higher learning in each other’s country. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Beijing in May 2015, both countries signed an expanded Education Exchange Programme agreement which provides for enhanced cooperation in the field of vocational education and higher learning. Chinese students were also granted scholarships to study Hindi in India.

Clash breaks out among Matuas over NRC

One faction alleges false propaganda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Two groups of followers of a Dalit sect had a fight on Tuesday on the possible effects of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in West Bengal, resulting in many injuries. This is for first time that the two sects of Matua Mahasangha, a socio-religious body of a predominantly Dalit refugee sect, the Matuas, fought publicly, “tarnishing” the image of the apolitical body, followers said.

About 40-45 lakh Matua voters are spread over nearly 50 of the 294 Assembly segments in West Bengal.

On Tuesday, one section of the Matuas, headed by the Matua Mahasangha’s chairperson Mamatabala Thakur, convened a meeting in its headquarters at Thakurnagar in North 24 Paraganas, about 70 km north of Kolkata. Ms. Thakur is a former MP of TMC, defeated by her brother-in-law’s son Shantanu Thakur of the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha election.

“Our objective was to make people aware of the possible impact of NRC on people who came from Bangladesh. We also invited Muslims,” a disciple close to Ms. Thakur’s faction said. Mr. Thakur’s faction opposed it and campaigned in

the area over the last few days against this meeting that was held to “build up resistance against the NRC”.

Mr. Thakur’s faction allegedly attacked Ms. Thakur’s meeting, which took “a communal turn” as many Muslims were present. “They started shouting Jai Sri Ram and asked why Muslims are allowed to come inside Thakurbari [the headquarters],” the disciple said. They alleged that their leader Sukriti Ranjan Biswas was also beaten up. The other faction, led by Mr. Thakur, denied the allegation.

“They [Ms. Thakur’s faction] held the meeting in the venue even though we were scheduled to hold a meeting there. Moreover, they got Muslims to enter Thakurbari,” said another disciple close to Mr. Thakur. He added that Ms. Thakur’s faction was “spreading false news” about NRC despite BJP president Amit Shah’s statement. “Mr. Shah said that there won’t be any NRC in Bengal and they [Ms. Thakur’s faction] were insisting that the BJP will push people out of the country, so we had to protest,” the disciple said. The scuffle deeply disturbed the followers of the sect and one of the religious chiefs of a group, among the multiple bodies of Matuas, regretted the incident.

EOW arrests HDIL group directors Rakesh, Sarang

₹3,500 cr. assets attached provisionally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police on Thursday arrested Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang, both directors of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) group, in connection with its ongoing investigation into the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

The EOW had on Monday registered an FIR against managing director of PMC Joy Thomas, the Wadhawans and other officials of both organisations.

EOW sources said that the Wadhawans were called for questioning to the EOW office in Mumbai police headquarters in Crawford Market on Thursday.

“They could not provide satisfactory answers to the questions put to them. Further, a prima facie trail of money was established from the bank to their accounts, after which they were both arrested,” Mumbai police spokesperson DCP Pranay Ashok said.

The Special Investigation

Team probing the case has identified 44 bank accounts connected to the case, he said, which are now being scrutinised.

The Wadhawans had mortgaged several of their properties in Vasai, Virar and Nallasopara as collateral for the loans, and teams will be sent to these properties. The EOW is also collecting documents pertaining to these properties.

Shell companies

“We are trying to find out whether the same properties were also mortgaged fraudulently with other financial institutions so that they could get more money in the form of loans against them. Inquiries have also revealed that some of the loans taken from the PMC Bank were obtained through shell companies,” the officer said.

On Thursday, the EOW also froze a demat account belonging to PMC chairman Warayam Singh, and provisionally attached assets worth ₹3,500 crore belonging to the HDIL group or the Wadhawans.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

No: KPCL/2019-20/PS/WORK_IDENT8748/CALL-2 Date: 26.09.2019
KPCL invites bids through GOK e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from the qualified bidders for the work of **Manufacture, supply, erection, Testing and commissioning of under slung EOT crane of 16T capacity for wagon tippler 2 of CHP-1 of Raichur Thermal Power station, including insurance towards transit risk/storage/ intra-site transportation for erection at site.** Those who have not registered in e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in may do so in order to participate in the bid. The brief Bid Notification containing the pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders, EMD, calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), KPC Ltd, No. 22/23, Sudarshan Complex, 2nd floor, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Tel.No: 080-22206223, Fax.No:080-22386517, email: cetd@karnatakapower.com, kpcldcetd@gmail.com, website: www.karnatakapower.com

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, East Division, 2nd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002

No.: EE/RI-East/TEND/04/2019-20 Date: 03-10-2019

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure (East Division) on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Improvement and asphaltting to Nandhidurga road from Jayamahall main road to millar road. (2nd Call)	177.00	2.70

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from **04.10.2019**, (2) Last date for submission of Tender through e-procurement on or before **18.10.2019 upto 4.00 PM**, (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **10.10.2019 at 4.00 PM** in the office of the Chief Engineer, RI, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Offices, Bengaluru-02. (4) Date of opening of Technical Bids: **21.10.2019 after 11.00 AM**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-East Division
“Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru”

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 04/2019-20/KWA/PHC/D4/TVM(RT1). AMRUT – Thiruvananthapuram Sewerage Scheme – Providing Sludge drier for Management of sludge generated at 107 MLD STP at Muttathara. EMD: Rs. 100000. Tender fee : Rs. 7500. Last Date for submitting Tender : **28.10.2019 03:00 pm**. Phone : 04712322303. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

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CAD-442
Type of Work :- Dam & Spillway Work
Total No of works :- 01 (One) No.
Period of completion :- 18 calendar months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Amount put to Tender (Approx.) (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Tender (On-line)
Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar	OCC-LMP/01/2019-20	104,22,00,000.00	1,04,22,000.00	09.10.2019, 10.00 AM to 02.11.2019, 5.00 PM	09.10.2019, 10.00 AM to 02.11.2019, 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid: **05.11.2019, 11.30 AM**
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
3412011/0005/1920
Managing Director

Kerala prisoner calls home as Amphalla jail in J&K introduces inmate calling system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Kerala native Jatan, lodged in a jail in Jammu, heard the voice of his wife and minor daughter for the first time in nearly four years, thanks to authorities introducing a first-of-its-kind prison inmate calling system, which allows prisoners to make long-distance calls.

He is facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and is lodged in the dis-

trict jail Amphalla, which is the first prison in Jammu and Kashmir to get the facility along with modern interview rooms on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal, inaugurated the facilities on Wednesday evening in the presence of DGP (prisons) V.K. Singh and other senior civil and police officers.

A total of 587 prisoners are lodged in Am-

phalla jail in the city. Facing imprisonment thousands of kilometres away from his home town, Jatan was the first to utilise the inmate calling facility and he talked to his daughter who was just two months old when he was arrested in Jammu.

10-minute call

“My parents have visited me a few times over the past three-and-a-half years but this facility has reunited me with my wife and daughter, and I

am very thankful to the prison authorities for providing such a facility to us,” Jatan told PTI after talking to his family for 10 minutes.

Jatan, who was working as a salesman at a jeweller shop in his city before his arrest, has now become a painter taking advantage of the efforts being made by the jail authorities for the reformation of inmates through different vocational training programmes and educational courses.

ELSEWHERE



Pak. PM to visit China to revive CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD
Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China from October 7 to 8 to meet the country's top leadership and revive the stalled \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, according to a media report. The first phase of CPEC are close to completion. But the progress on CPEC next phase projects have slowed. PTI

FB suffers blow in EU court over hate speech

LUXEMBOURG
Facebook on Wednesday was dealt a major blow in the EU's top court, which ruled that national courts in Europe can order online platforms to remove defamatory content worldwide. EU regulators had sought U.S. tech giants to meet tightened European standards over hate speech and offensive content. AFP

Bangladeshi soldiers 'rape' Rohingya girl

DHAKA
The Bangladesh military said on Thursday it has ordered an investigation after a Rohingya family in a refugee camp accused Army troops of raping a 12-year-old girl. The inquiry comes as around a million Rohingya in vast camps in Bangladesh face increasing hostility two years after fleeing a military offensive in Myanmar. AFP

Pak., Taliban call on U.S. to resume peace talks

ISLAMABAD
Senior Afghan Taliban leaders and Pakistani officials on Thursday called for the resumption of talks to end the war in Afghanistan. The appeal was made during a rare Taliban visit to Islamabad, and comes after months-long U.S.-Taliban negotiations collapsed in September. AP

EU sceptical of Boris Johnson's Brexit plan, wants it reworked

British PM hopes to seal an exit agreement at the October 17-18 EU summit

REUTERS
BRUSSELS
European Union officials expressed doubt on Thursday that the latest British proposals on Brexit could yield an agreement before an October 31 deadline, with one saying Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan "can't fly" as it stands.

But the bloc was careful not to dismiss the proposals too soon and both sides are treading carefully to avoid any blame should the tortuous divorce process end in a crash.

More talks between both sides' Brexit negotiators are due on Friday but the bloc has already made it clear that Mr. Johnson's plans – which principally involve arrangements for the border between EU member Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland – are nowhere close to unlocking a deal.

They can only be a starting point to more talks, according to officials and diplomats dealing with Brexit in EU hub Brussels.

Hard border
"It does not contain any decent solution for customs. And it erects a hard border on the island of Ireland," said a senior EU official, saying the plan "can't fly" as it stands.

An EU diplomat said the plan would need to be fundamentally reworked to become acceptable. Time was short before EU leaders meet in Brussels on October 17-18 for a make-or-break Brexit summit, the person said.

Mr. Johnson hopes to seal an agreement then and take Britain out of the bloc two weeks later.



Exit plans: Boris Johnson speaking on the proposed Brexit deal in the House of Commons on Thursday. • AFP

However, the British Parliament has passed a law saying the country cannot leave without a deal and must ask for an extension if it gets nowhere at the EU summit.

Mr. Johnson vows to take Britain out on October 31 but has not explained how he would get around that. He has also pledged not to request another delay to Brexit, already postponed twice from its original date last March.

The EU is also worried about the lack of a parliamentary majority for any Brexit accord after a divorce deal it had struck with Mr. Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, was rejected three times in the House of Commons.

The European Parliament, which must sign off on any final Brexit deal, has a group of lawmakers dealing with Brexit known as the Brexit Steering Group (BSG), who met with the bloc's negotiator Michel Barnier late on Wednesday.

"The BSG did not find these last minute proposals, in their current form, represent a basis for an agreement to which the European Parliament could give consent,"

said the latest draft of the lawmakers' statement seen by Reuters ahead of release. "The BSG has grave concerns about the U.K. proposal, as tabled, both in terms of its content and timing." In Dublin, Irish Junior Finance Minister Patrick O'Donovan said Mr. Johnson's offer was the basis for discussions but not of an agreement.

Talk with Irish PM
Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the European Commission – the EU's executive negotiating Brexit for the other 27 member states – was due to talk to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar later on Thursday.

The European Central Bank's Luis de Guindos said separately that markets may not be fully pricing in the negative impact of any disorderly Brexit.

"There are problematic points in the U.K.'s proposal and further work is needed. This work is for the U.K. to do, not the other way around," Commission spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud said.

Britain, however, stressed it was the EU's turn to move.

No deal if U.K.'s offer is final, says Ireland

REUTERS
DUBLIN

If Britain's latest proposals for an agreement on leaving the European Union are its final offer, then a no-deal Brexit lies ahead, Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said on Thursday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday announced proposals focusing on how to avoid a hard border with Ireland.

"My judgement is that Boris Johnson does want a deal and that the paper that was published yesterday was an effort to move us in the direction of a deal. But... if that is the final proposal, there will be no deal," Mr. Coveney told Parliament.

"There are a number of fundamental problems with that proposal but I think it is also true to say there is a progression towards the space we need to be in other elements of the proposal," he added.

Two problems

The first is that there is no indication of how border infrastructure to deal with customs issues can be avoided. Secondly, it is unclear if the proposals would give Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party an effective veto.

"We cannot support any proposal that suggests that one party or indeed a minority in Northern Ireland could make the decisions for the majority," he said.

Four officers killed in knife attack at Paris police HQ

Staffer behind the attack had issues with managers: report

REUTERS
PARIS

A 45-year-old IT assistant at the police headquarters in central Paris went on a knife rampage inside the building on Thursday, killing three police officers and an administrative worker before he was shot dead by an officer, French officials said.

The officials declined to say what the motive was for the attack, which took place at lunch-time, and they said they were still trying to understand if there was a terrorism link.

But sources close to the police were quoted by French media as saying that the attacker had a grievance with his managers.

'Criminal incident'

Jean-Marc Bailleul, a police union leader, described the incident as criminal rather than an act of terror. "It was a moment of madness" Mr. Bailleul told BFM TV.

The area around the police headquarters, which is close to Notre-Dame Cathedral, was sealed off and a metro station was shut for security reasons as the attack unfolded.



Crime scene: Police cordoned off the area near the Paris police headquarters on Thursday. • AFP

The dead, three men and a woman, included three police officials and a police administrative assistant, according to Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz. Another person was wounded as is undergoing surgery.

Mr. Heitz said police were searching the attacker's home, and that anti-terrorist investigators were evaluating what had happened, for any terrorist links.

Speaking outside the police headquarters, French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said the attacker was known to his colleagues and had worked for some time in the IT department.

"He had never presented any behavioural issues, he had never presented the slightest cause for alarm before going on his deadly rampage today," Mr. Castaner said.

A police official and member of the collective "Police up in Anger", which lobbies for better conditions for officers, was quoted by francinfo radio as saying the assailant had experienced issues with his supervisor.

"I know there were tensions between him and his direct supervisor," Christophe Crepin told francinfo. "I do not think this is a terrorist act."

Trump asks China to probe Bidens

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump called on China as well as Ukraine to investigate his potential 2020 election rival Joe Biden, doubling down as Democrats began an impeachment inquiry against him.

Facing possible removal from office precisely for seeking foreign help against his political challengers, Mr.

Trump said he wanted Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to go after Biden.

"I would say that President Zelensky, if it were me, I would recommend that they start an investigation into the Bidens," Mr. Trump said. "If they were honest about it they would start a very simple investigation on the Bidens," he said.

"Likewise, China should

start an investigation into the Bidens, because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine." Asked if he would ask Mr. Xi to do the same, he replied, "It's certainly something we can start thinking about."

Mr. Biden's campaign called Mr. Trump's comments "a grotesque choice of lies over truth and self over the country."

Scottish whisky, French cheese come under U.S. trade tariffs

Duties come after WTO ruling that Airbus got undue subsidies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

From whisky and wine to parkas and cashmere sweaters, the U.S. has released a list of imported European products slapped with tariffs in the battle between Washington and Brussels over aircraft subsidies.

Washington announced it would put a 10% tariff on large civil aircraft imported from the four European partners of Airbus – Germany, France, Spain and the U.K. – after Wednesday's World Trade Organization (WTO) decision that ruled the company received undue subsidies.

The U.S. tariffs on \$7.5 billion (€6.8 billion) worth of European goods include more than 150 products, principally from those four nations but also across Europe, that will face a 25% tariff from October 18.

'A nice victory'
President Donald Trump, tweeting early on Thursday morning, called the WTO decision "a nice victory" and claimed the European Union had "for many years treated the USA very badly on Trade".

The Trump administration intends to hit French, Spanish and German wines

– exempting Hungarian Tokay – as well as the U.K.'s Irish and Scottish single-malt whiskies with the tariffs.

Cheeses from across Europe, including pecorino, stilton and cheddar – which is specifically exempted – will be taxed under the new rules.

Olives, olive oil and mussels from Spain will also face the 25% tariff, as will Germany's coffee – both caffeinated and decaffeinated.

"Made in England" cashmere, woolen anoraks and bed linen will have the 25% surcharge added, while Germany's exports of industrial tools will be affected.

28 die in anti-government rallies in Iraq

Disenchanted youth demand jobs, services and an end to endemic corruption

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Thousands of protesters clashed with riot police in Iraq's capital and across the south on Thursday, the third day of mass rallies that have left 28 dead.

Defying curfews, tear gas and live rounds, they gathered to vent their anger against corruption, unemployment and poor services in the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi.

As dusk fell in Baghdad, crowds swelled around the capital's oil and industry ministry, pledging to march to the capital's emblematic Tahrir (Liberation) Square.

"We'll keep going until the government falls," pledged



Growing unrest: Security forces closing a bridge leading to the Green Zone as protesters demonstrate in Baghdad. • AP

22-year-old Ali, an unemployed university graduate.

"I've got nothing but 250 lira (20 U.S. cents) in my pocket while government officials have millions," he said.

Most demonstrators carried

the Iraqi tricolour while others brandished flags bearing the name of Hussein, the Prophet Mohammed's grandson and a revered figure in Shiite Islam.

Riot police and Army troops fired at the ground

from automatic weapons mounted on military vehicles, the bullets ricocheting into the crowd.

The three days of demonstrations have left 28 people dead, including two police officers, and over 1,000 people have been wounded.

More than half of those killed in the last three days have been in the southern city of Nasiriyah, where six protesters were shot dead and dozens wounded on Thursday.

Nearby Amarah has also seen bloodshed, with medics and security sources reporting four protesters shot dead on Thursday.

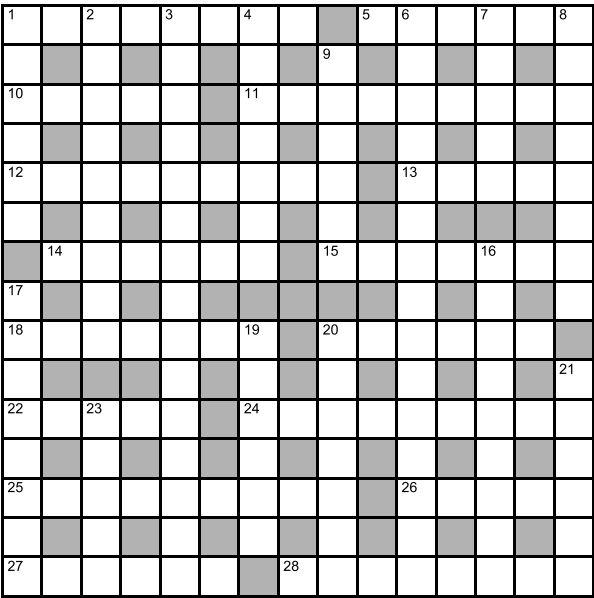
Later, two protesters and a police officer were killed in Diwaniyah.

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong has loosened guidelines on the use of force by police as it struggles to stamp out anti-government protests that have rocked the Asian financial hub for nearly four months, according to documents seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The city is also expected to ban face masks, media reported. The loosening of restrictions on the use of force came into effect shortly before some of the most violent turmoil seen in the protests on Tuesday, with police firing about 1,400 rounds of tear gas and protesters throwing petrol bombs and sticks.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12747



ACROSS

- 1 What a fisherman might do to get a percussion instrument? (8)
- 5 Display cut over top of point (6)
- 10 Inn and house leased on retirement (5)
- 11 Secretary's back to go over main point before start of rehearsal (9)

- 12 Concernment from venerable problem around college (9)
- 13 Looks after saint about to embrace death (5)
- 14 Jewelled crowns from India stolen by rogue around a square (6)
- 15 Vain President abandoned course of action with anger (7)
- 18 Issue about man pursuing model boiled over (7)
- 20 Pastry in bowl contains a topping of nuts (6)
- 22 A warning around river – no longer anchored (5)
- 24 Want to capture leader of insurgents and confine for string of offences (5,4)
- 25 Leave quickly and frantically seek lad taking daughter on date (9)
- 26 Love to sleep around? Model is available (2,3)
- 27 Craved and ended up consuming ecstasy (6)
- 28 Basic construction of triangle (8)

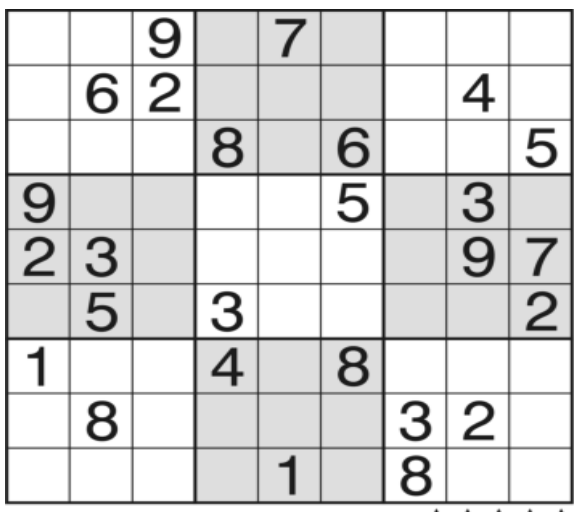
DOWN

- 1 Associate in firm, sexually attractive, concealing a little romp (6)
- 2 Sycophant in plot to suppress a report (9)

(set by Dr. X)

- 3 A liberal date beginning to tantalise with trendy thong – unable to think clearly (3,4,3,5)
- 4 Blunder including son in assignments (7)
- 6 What a postman might do to try to achieve more than seems possible? (4,3,8)
- 7 Expert wearing an item of clothing (5)
- 8 Worried stiff about idiot on ecstasy (8)
- 9 Associate goes to collect long sheaths for shoelaces (6)
- 16 New train set assembled without delay (9)
- 17 One killing with impudence in a crime (8)
- 19 Select detectives to probe mysterious assassination of President (6)
- 20 Determined to preserve essence of ancient outdoor theatre (5-2)
- 21 Vindictive prince trapped foreign correspondent (3,3)
- 23 Old magistrate, reviewing incessantly, confines rogue at last (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12746

F	A	M		B	B	A		
U	N	R	E	A	D	Q	U	I
M	C	G	O	N	U	Y		
C	A	S	H	I	N	O	C	R
R	A	S	H	I	N	O	C	R
O	U	G	H	T	H	U	M	D
L	I	A	B	O				
L	E	A	V	E	I	N	T	H
E	L	E	V	E	I	N	T	H
P	Y	E	R	H	I	C	R	A
R	I	E	O					
T	O	S	S	E	R			
M	E	E	B	O	O			
P	O	T	E	N	T			
T	O	T		E	E	T		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	2	5	6	8	4	9	3
9	4	3	1	2	7	6	5	8
5	8	6	9	3	4	1	7	2
7	2	5	8	9	1	3	6	4
8	9	4	3	5	6	2	1	7
6	3	1	7	4	2	9	8	5
2	1	8	4	7	9	5	3	6
4	5	9	6	8	3	7	2	1
3	6	7	2	1	5	8	4	9

FAITH

Pinnacle of bhakti

The azhwars represent many subtle facets of devotion and their hymns are excellent indicators to even the uninitiated to turn to God and seek salvation. Among them, Tiruppannashwar represents the pinnacle of bhakti, pointed out Mukkur Sri Srinivasan in a discourse. He is believed to be an amsa of the Lord's Srivatsa mark and also an 'Ayonija,' that is, one who is not born of human parents. He is brought up by a family of singing minstrels known as the Panars who used to live on the southern banks of the River Kaveri. His only passion is for Lord Ranganatha though he has not entered the temple and his devotion would overflow as soulful songs in praise of the Lord.

Once when he is thus engrossed in mystic trance, the temple priest, one Loka Saranga, comes to the river to collect water in a pitcher for the Lord's abhisheka. Finding the Panar in the way, he expects him to move; but the Panar is totally unaware of what is happening being lost in God experience. So the priest throws a piece of stone that hits him on his forehead. Immediately, the Panar is apologetic, and chiding himself for his thoughtlessness, moves away. But the priest is in for a surprise when the Lord makes him realise the mistake of hurting a true devotee. The Lord commands him to carry the Panar on his shoulders and bring him to the temple the next day. He does so and when the Panar is in the presence of the Lord he breaks into a series of hymns in praise of the Lord from His feet to His crown.

The import of these hymns contains the essence of all what the Vedas and the Upanishads convey through so many words, rhetoric, stories, anecdotes, etc. It reinforces the Lord's compassion and grace that sustains an unbreakable bond between Him and His devotees.

MARKET WATCH		
	03-10-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,107	-0.52
US Dollar	70.87	0.28
Gold	39,115	0.90
Brent oil	57.45	-3.73

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	403.90	-0.15
Asian Paints	1748.95	-17.15
Axis Bank	668.40	-10.75
Bajaj Auto	2897.90	-12.10
Bajaj Finserv	8446.45	-11.90
Bajaj Finance	3959.80	-32.60
Bharti Airtel	344.90	-6.05
BPCL	531.60	37.70
Britannia Ind	2902.95	-16.60
Cipla	418.10	5.45
Coal India	186.75	-7.35
Dr Reddys Lab	2677.15	-12.20
Eicher Motors	18284.65	457.80
GAIL (India)	131.70	-1.20
Grasim Ind	679.65	-13.50
HCL Tech	1076.80	17.25
HDFC	1974.55	-21.10
HDFC Bank	1223.55	-25.25
Hero MotoCorp	2667.45	-20.90
Hindalco	182.60	-7.15
Hind Unilever	1962.05	-28.25
ICICI Bank	427.30	2.70
IndusInd Bank	1255.50	-42.55
Bharti Infratel	248.25	-0.75
Infosys	785.60	-7.95
Indian OilCorp	151.75	3.20
ITC	261.65	5.75
JSW Steel	221.55	-1.10
Kotak Bank	1615.75	-32.45
L&T	1458.05	-6.00
M&M	562.70	6.00
Maruti Suzuki	6754.05	-27.95
Nestle India Ltd.	13709.85	28.30
NTPC	116.75	-0.30
ONGC	128.10	-0.10
PowerGrid Corp	199.10	2.60
Reliance Ind	1311.05	6.15
State Bank	254.15	-1.80
Sun Pharma	388.15	1.60
Tata Motors	122.40	7.10
Tata Steel	339.60	-11.95
TCS	2060.25	0.30
Tech Mahindra	702.50	-2.45
Titan	1295.50	14.90
UltraTech Cement	4146.80	-65.80
UPL	594.40	-0.55
Vedanta	144.40	-6.90
Wipro	235.85	2.35
YES Bank	42.50	10.50
Zee Entertainment	251.55	18.40

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 03		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.68	71.00
Euro	77.52	77.87
British Pound	87.05	87.45
Japanese Yen (100)	66.11	66.41
Chinese Yuan	9.89	9.93
Swiss Franc	70.72	71.04
Singapore Dollar	51.19	51.43
Canadian Dollar	53.03	53.27
Malaysian Ringgit	16.88	16.96
Source: Indian Bank		

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
October 03 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	49.3	(47.7)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3630	(3556)

Rajat Monga resigns from Yes Bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Rajat Monga, senior group president and one of the veterans of Yes Bank, has quit citing personal reasons, the lender's MD and CEO Ravneet Gill informed investors in a conference call.

Mr. Monga had been with Yes Bank since its inception in 2004. "He has left on account of personal reasons. Recent developments had taken a toll on his health and he had decided to move on, according to Mr. Gill," Macquarie wrote in a note.

Meanwhile, the bank is in advanced stages of capital raising from investors, including global tech majors, to grow the balance-sheet that has been consciously shrunk in recent months,said Mr. Gill. (With PTI inputs)

CG Power shares soar on 'revival talks'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Shares of fraud hit CG Power and Industrial Solutions touched the upper circuit limit of 5% to close at ₹14.04 on Monday on reports that a Sunil Bharti Mittal-led firm wanted to lead the revival of the company.

Mr. Mittal held 8.3% in the company through Bharti (SBM) Holdings Pvt. Ltd, as of June 30. He is learnt to be in talks with other investors to infuse capital for a turnaround, according to a source in the know of the development.

"The discussion with lenders is to recast the loans as the new investors are not willing to pay for fraud done by promoters of the company," the source added.

IRCTC IPO subscribed record 112 times

Issue witnesses strong demand from all categories of investors; offering part of govt. divestment plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The initial public offer (IPO) of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), which closed for subscription on Thursday, has created a record in terms of the highest-ever subscription for a public issue of a government-owned company.

As per NSE data, the public issue, that aims to raise ₹645 crore, was subscribed nearly 112 times with bids received for 225.61 crore shares against 2.02 crore shares on offer in the price band of ₹315 to ₹320.

As per data from Prime Database, this is the first time ever that an IPO of a public sector undertaking (PSU) has been subscribed more than 100 times. In 2017, the public issue of Housing & Urban Develop-



Chosen vehicle: Two Tejas trains of the Indian Railways will be operated by the IRCTC. *S.KRISHNAMOORTHY

ment Corporation (HUDCO) was subscribed nearly 79 times. In the same year, Cochin Shipyard public issue was subscribed 75.59 times.

Last year, the IPO of Rites Ltd. got subscribed nearly 67

times. Meanwhile, the IPO of IRCTC witnessed strong demand from all categories of investors.

The portion reserved for high net worth individuals was subscribed over 354

times, while that reserved for retail investors got subscribed 14.65 times.

The segment reserved for employees, which historically has seen low subscription numbers, was also subscribed 5.79 times. Incidentally, the company will be offering a discount of ₹10 to applicants in the retail and employees' categories.

Large bids

Institutional investors have also put in large bids with the segment getting subscribed nearly 109 times.

IRCTC is the railways' online ticketing, tourism and catering arm and the only entity authorised by the Ministry of Railways to provide catering services to railways, online railway tickets and packaged drinking water at railway stations and trains in

India.

The public offering is part of the government's disinvestment programme and the public offering will lead to the government – which holds the stake through Ministry of Railways – holding coming down from the current 100% to 87.5%.

IRCTC earns the maximum revenue (55%) from its catering operations followed by travel and tourism (23.38%), ticketing (12.35%) and Rail Neer (9.28%).

For the financial year ended March 31, 2019, the company reported a net profit of ₹272.56 crore, which was higher than the previous year's net profit of ₹220.62 crore.

The company, which is completely debt-free, had cash reserves of ₹1,140.04 crore as on March 31, 2019.

'Allow Huawei to participate in 5G roll-out'

India can use this as leverage with China, says telecom baron Sunil Bharti Mittal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Sunil Bharti Mittal on Thursday said India should allow Chinese telecom equipment firm Huawei to participate in the 5G roll-out in the country citing superior products than competition, even as U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross asserted that the U.S. position of banning Huawei did not stem from protectionism but due to 'considerable' security risk.

"I really feel they should be in play," Mr. Mittal said at the India Economic Summit.

"India must use this as leverage. There are lots of open issues with China as well and India must take advantage of

them, unlike opening it to other western companies... and then having very little leverage."

He pointed out that over the past 10-12 years, Huawei had become 'extremely' good with products "to a point where I can safely say that their products, at least in 3G and 4G, are significantly superior to those of Ericsson and Nokia without a doubt, and I use all three of them."

Mr. Ross, speaking at the same panel, said, "We do not have a direct competitor to Huawei. So the notion that our views on Huawei are a function of U.S. protectionism is simply incorrect."

"Our concern is based on our desire that our geopoliti-



In 3G and 4G, one can separate peripheral parts from central parts but that is not possible in 5G, says Mr. Ross. *REUTERS

cal partner India does not inadvertently subject itself to untoward security risk."

Pointing out that 5G was different from 3G and 4G, Mr. Ross said, "In 3G and 4G, you are able to separate peripheral parts from central

parts. In 5G, if there is penetration via a back-door, it will infiltrate the whole system. So proportionality of risk is considerable."

He added that Huawei was 'very dependent' on U.S. technology so it wasn't a case of Huawei hav-

ing found 'a magical thing' not available elsewhere. "I believe that in a few years there will be a western alternative that leapfrogs technology.... since 5G is a such a revolutionary thing and is going to take quite a while to roll out anyway. Our feeling is why jump into it."

Mr. Mittal, however, said, "Huawei has surprised me on how fast they have taken the technology curve to a level where its leading edge, power consumption is a fraction of the Europeans", the footprint is small if you want to put it on a tower... they are clearly ahead."

He also pointed out that in 24-36 months, China will become 100% free from any American component.

Private sector's turn to respond: Kant

Post corporate tax cut, more structural reforms are likely, says NITI Aayog CEO

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA NEW DELHI

Days after the government cut corporate tax rate for domestic firms and new manufacturing units, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Thursday said the government has done its bit and now, it is for the private sector to respond by reducing product prices and making investments.

He also signalled that more reforms may be announced to further boost economic growth in the country.

"....the government has done its bit. It has brought in one-tax regime across the country...India's corporate tax regime is the best in the world. Now, the private sector must do its bit. The private sector is sitting on vast inventories," Mr. Kant said while speaking during a session at the Indian Economic Summit.



Amitabh Kant

He added, "We have, by one stroke of pen, improved the bottom line of these companies. This year itself, many companies, their balance sheets will jump very hugely and significantly. And therefore, the onus on them is to cut prices, reduce inventories, become competitive, sell off all the stocks and create new capacities in this country. The government has done its part, the private sector must respond."

'Talk of trade deal during Modi's visit only speculation'

Want to remove artificial barriers by partner nations: Ross

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's return to India from the U.S. without having signed any sort of trade deal, as was widely anticipated, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross played down expectations, saying any news of a potential deal during the U.S. trip was just speculation.

"The first time I was able to meet and really further the talks actively was only on the Monday following Howdy Modi, so I don't know where all the speculation around an announcement in Houston came from," Mr. Goyal said while speaking at the India Economic Summit 2019 by the World Economic Forum on Thursday.



Wilbur Ross

Mr. Ross reiterated Mr. Goyal's point, adding, however, that there was no structural reason why a trade deal between the two countries could not be signed soon.

Regarding the U.S.' efforts to reduce trade deficits with its trading partners, including India, Mr. Ross said that the U.S. was only concerned

with reducing deficits that arose out of artificial barriers imposed by governments. Mr. Goyal, however, highlighted the fact that India has in fact been very accommodative. "India has been one of the most benign countries in terms of opening up the economy, and liberalising FDI norms," Mr. Goyal said. He added that the "spirit of Indian law is protecting small retail", and so, the e-commerce rules on FDI enabled e-commerce companies to operate as agnostic marketplaces.

"We understand the political sensitivities of protecting small retail," Mr. Ross said. "But if, in 100 years, India has the same number of small retailers as it has now, it would have held back growth."

Hyderabad tops in office space absorption: JLL

City followed by Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Hyderabad has emerged the leader in office space net absorption and new completions during the July-September quarter, the latest report of real estate consultancy JLL said.

"Among all prime markets in [India], Hyderabad topped the chart in net absorption and new completions, registering a 36% and 44% market share, respectively, in the quarter. Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR markets followed. Quality commercial supply continued to be constrained within Mumbai," JLL said in its report.

Describing Q3 2019 as another benchmark period for Hyderabad, the report said nearly 4 million sq. ft of Grade A office space was ab-

sorbed in three months and 5.21 million sq. ft of Grade A office space was added, this was "the maximum supply addition the city has witnessed on a quarterly basis."

Supply was concentrated in the IT parks of Hitec City and Gachibowli. The continued expansion by IT/ITES occupiers combined with increasing interest from large co-working occupiers like WeWork led to a substantial increase in the rental values, the report said.

Noting that the office real estate space continues to grow in an otherwise gloomy economic climate, the JLL report said the office market across the top seven cities – Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata – has performed well in 2019.

IRDAI working group to revisit title insurance structure

Panel will suggest measures to boost demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has constituted a working group that will revisit the product structure of title insurance, develop a standard product and recommend measures to spur demand for the product.

The decision comes in the backdrop of a less-than-desired response to title insurance products.

'Minimal sales'

"The number of title insurance policies sold are minimal despite availability for the last one and half years and the obligation cast under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 upon promoter/deve-



lopers to obtain the said policy," the IRDAI order, constituting a 12-member working group, said. A few general insurers offer title insurance.

Their product features vary in policy terms and conditions and scope of coverage depending on the support received from their reinsurers. Stating this, the regula-

tor said the feedback received from the Government of India revealed that stakeholders, especially developers associations, had flagged the need for standardisation in title insurance products.

The working group has been formed with a deadline of three months to submit the report.

Besides developing a standard product and coming out with recommendations to spur demand, the group will examine the legal and regulatory framework in place and its impact on the marketability of title insurance; study the structure of such products available and analyse reasons for sluggish demand; and suggest augmentation of reinsurance capacity.

Why the rush for the IRCTC public offer

Signals appetite for good PSU stocks

RAGHUVIR SRINIVASAN

The rush for a piece of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) is unprecedented for any PSU disinvestment. In the 112 times subscription for the initial public offering (IPO), there is a significant message.

The government hoped to raise ₹645 crore from the IPO. But it has been flooded with subscription amounting to a cool ₹72,195 crore! On offer were 2.02 crore shares to the public; the subscriptions received were for 225.61 crore shares.

NEWS ANALYSIS

This is as much a comment on IRCTC's fundamental strengths and monopoly position in its business as it is for the appetite for good PSU stocks in the market. The response to IRCTC should be seen in the backdrop of the volatile markets, depressed investor sentiment and supposed liquidity constraints in the market. The market's signal is clear: it is hungry for quality PSU stocks and can generate the resources for the right candidate. For the government, which has set a target of ₹1.05 lakh crore from disinvestment this fiscal this is certainly good news.

But why the mad investor rush for IRCTC? Imagine a company that is a monopoly in issuing online tickets for the Railways. Though online ticketing accounts for just over 12% of total revenues, it accounts for over a third of profits before tax.

And, this is despite the removal of service charges for online bookings in 2017. With the re-entry of service charges from September this year in the form of 'con-



venience fee', IRCTC's revenues will rise; importantly, its profit will soar because unlike earlier, the convenience fee will not be shared with the Railways and will go through straight to the company's bottomline.

Second, IRCTC is the chosen vehicle for the Railways' experiment with 'private trains'. Two of its Tejas trains – one of which will be flagged off on Oct. 5 from New Delhi to Lucknow – will be operated by IRCTC, and there is promise of more to come.

The company has the freedom to set fares on these trains and will pay a licence fee to the Railways for use of its infrastructure. IRCTC can hope to grow its revenues and earnings significantly from this business if it can maintain quality and punctuality of its trains.

Third, IRCTC has almost a monopoly share of on-rail food catering which it does on over 350 trains.

It also has outlets in over 500 stations apart from food courts.

A little more than half its revenues and about 28% of its profits come from catering and travel segments. Finally, IRCTC is a debt-free company with a high marginal tax rate and will be one of the big beneficiaries of the corporate tax cut announced last month.

Shobana Kamineni, executive vice-chairperson, Apollo Hospitals, in her address, pointed out that one of the reasons that the private sector is holding back investments is uncertainty in government policy.

Replying to a question on what was holding the private sector back, Ms. Kamineni said, "...I think it is also because of the scare that the governments can midway, after you've made all these investments, suddenly pull the rug under you... that is keeping a lot of people away. I see it even in us making investments, suddenly, if there are price caps..."

She, however, added, "I still believe that we're entrepreneurs, we're in it for risk, we don't expect a red carpet, we expect some potholes...we're taking risks so that we can make profit at the end of it... but there has to be some amount of cer-

tainty...when the government stands behind anything..."

Mr. Kant said steps such as reduction in corporate tax are bringing in "predictability and consistency." Talking about the economy, Mr. Kant pointed out that both the RBI and the government have taken a series of measures to take India back to a high trajectory of growth rate and more measures could soon be announced.

"I think many more structural reforms are in the offing. The government has pushed for public sector disinvestment. I can tell you, we have pushed for asset monetisation in a very big way...Our belief is that instead of greenfield projects, investors must come into brownfield projects and government must keep itself out of business. Government must be a facilitator and catalyst," he said.

Coal India sees 23.5% output drop in Sept.

Strikes, heavy rainfall hit production

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) saw a 23.5% decline in its September 2019 output, producing 30.8 million tonnes against 40.25 million tonnes in September 2018. Coal offtake, too, dropped by 20% to 35.2 million tonnes.

CIL closed the first half (April to September 2019) with a 6% decline in output to 241 million tonnes against 256.5 million tonnes, the company said in a regulatory filing. Offtake dropped by 5.2%.

'50% output loss'

CIL had ended the first five months of this fiscal with a 2.8% production decline. In August its output dropped by 10.3%. Enquiries showed

that the coal strike – the first by the RSS-backed Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and then, by all the trade unions in the last week of September – led to a nearly 50% output loss.

The strike was called separately by the BMS and the other trade unions (INTUC, HMS, AITUC and CITU) to protest foreign direct investment in coal.

Production loss was also caused by heavy rainfall in western and certain parts of central India where at least two CIL subsidiaries – Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) – are headquartered. Mines in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. were also hit similarly. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) was affected by law and order problems.



Fresh off jury duty at the Dezeen Awards this year, Sonali Rastogi, co-founder of Morphogenesis, on running a female-friendly architecture firm, and building a new India

Nation-building aesthetics

Surat Diamond Bourse in numbers

2018
start date

2021
expected completion

\$310,000,000
total cost

35.5
acres

620,000 sqm
built area

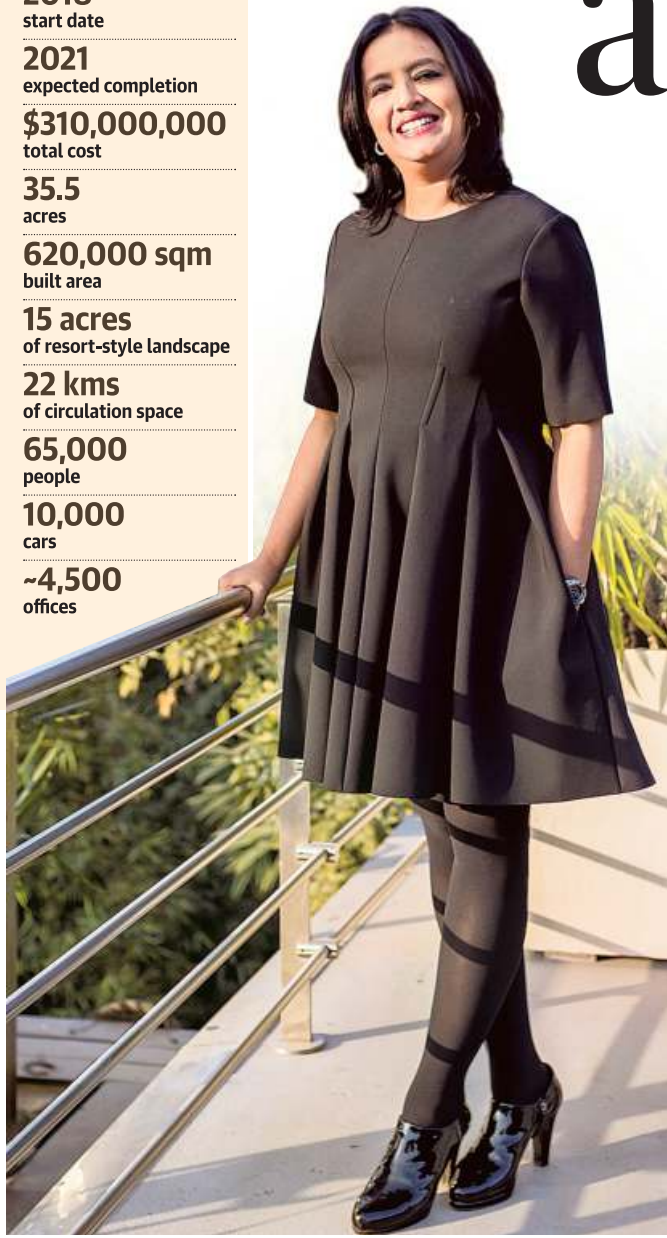
15 acres
of resort-style landscape

22 kms
of circulation space

65,000
people

10,000
cars

~4,500
offices



VANGMAYI PARAKALA

This is the eighth consecutive year that Morphogenesis, a Delhi-based architecture firm, has made it to the World Architecture 100. The annual list is a compilation of the largest architecture practices in the world, by Building Design Magazine in the U.K. 2019 marks 10 years since Morphogenesis, which is headed by Sonali and Manik Rastogi and is now 23 years old, became the first Indian firm to win at the World Architecture Festival, held that year in Barcelona. “WA is like the Oscars for the architecture and design industry,” says Sonali, who was on the jury at the second annual Dezeen Awards this year, the winners for which will be announced online by mid-October. Back in India, Sonali spoke about her firm’s philosophies and how they align with their upcoming big-ticket projects. Edited excerpts.

Being on WA 100 for eight consecutive years. What does that mean?
Why WA 100 gives me pride is that Indian firms would earlier never feature. Because firms here would never get to be of a certain [size], which is a condition to even be considered. Also, earlier, smaller boutique firms were the call of the day. But scale becomes important for a nation-building

exercise. For a first-generation firm, achieving this scale is a big source of pride.

It’s emerged that your pay gap is skewed marginally in favour of women...
We were surprised to have pay parity such that it is 2% more on the side of women. That’s unheard of! Even we were surprised. When we looked through the data, we realised it’s because women stay here (in the company) longer here, and naturally they accrue better benefits.

Why do women stay on longer with your firm?
It’s the small reasons – and all of [these practices] are very easy to absorb in other architectural firms or informal work environments. For instance, an extended maternity leave. It’s crazy to think how on the one hand we are [advocating] breast milk for the baby’s wellness, but you still insist on thinking that just three months later, the child will be weaned off. It’s illiterate to think that women can come back to work like this. It’s more likely to make her leave. And then there’s a soft grooving back into work. Because you can’t be breast-feeding one day, and then disappear on your baby for 10 hours the next. We allow for a comfortable groove back into work the way they’re comfortable

Conscious design (Clockwise from left) An artistic representation of the upcoming Surat Diamond Bourse, The British School, Delhi; Sonali Rastogi ■ MORPHOGENESIS AND VIBHOR YADAV



Does the WA100 ranking give you access that’s difficult otherwise?
Absolutely. It puts you on a global playing field. It makes you a [firm] of choice when discussing the future of architecture. It puts you on a judging platform, where you decide, with other equals from around the world, about the next steps for the community. Our choices would then give cues and icons for the next generation to pick up on. It makes you a change-maker; that’s the vision with which this firm was set up.

How are you aligning your philosophy of using local smart city projects with your Aligarh and Port Blair?
In Aligarh, an old town, you have to fix what is broken, to bring back accepted norms of urban design and town planning. In Port Blair whatever was developed was very little, so it is a great place for intervention, and allows us to set a new framework for how the island should develop from here-on in a way that keeps environment sensitivity, cultural continuity. In Aligarh for example, we revitalised an abandoned lake, where people used to keep throwing junk, into a lake with a community centre that people want to go to. We are dealing with overcrowded roads, hawkers, and un-

organised car parking. So we work with ideas of digital parking meters, backed with timing-specific data, and provide liveable alternatives for today’s vendors and their customers.

Morphogenesis takes inspiration from ancient architecture. How do you bring elements of that into modern design?

About 10 or so years ago, an image from the studio, of using *matkas* for insulation in one of our projects, became popular. Everyone got caught in the romantic notion of traditional methods. The finished building, which is the Pearl Academy of Fashion in Jaipur, won various awards, including World Architecture Festival Award (Learning), in Barcelona, 2009. Basically when we studied the region, we learnt that double *chhats* were built with *kulhar* in between for insulation – because they didn’t have an insulating foam like today. The finished building has a completely contemporary look, just a different style of insulation, which worked better than much more expensive synthetic insulation. It gave work to potters, too. I’d like to separate aspirational aesthetics from whether the same can be achieved in an environmentally sustainable way. Most things can be.

You’ve used similar principles at The British School in Delhi. Is the model replicable in schools with smaller budgets too?
The first thing that [working like] this achieves is that it makes everything cheaper. Pearl Academy of Fashion in Jaipur is the cheapest project this firm has done. Similarly, The British School is simple *kota* stone and ceramic tiles, paint-plaster walls, and small panes of glass. Plus, simple things – like a central courtyard format design, where you get tempered air from the courtyard and air movement in the corridor – brought the air-conditioning load down to about one-fourth of what it would’ve been.

Given that you’re a part of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), have you thought about pushing forward such a proposal for any municipal buildings?
The government itself came up with a good initiative some years ago, which said that for all government projects, a 4-5 star rating on the GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), which is a very good green rating system in India, is mandatory. British School is the first 5-star rated on this.

Your upcoming Surat Diamond Bourse project has been billed as the largest single office space in the world. Can you talk about this project?
Firstly, it’s amazing that the world’s largest such project is getting made in India, and so silently. If it were being made anywhere else in the Western world, it’d have been on stamps by now. The project itself is a community-funded one. It’s not the world’s biggest developer making a mall and monetising it. This one big mammoth of a building is not just a place of work for 65,000 people – it’s those many people and their families. All this is happening because of this one building, which also reflects the nuances and cohesiveness of a community, which has managed to control about 90% of the world’s diamonds in some form. One of their first briefs was that they wanted trading efficiency, which comes from how quickly they can get from one place in the building to another. We convinced the clients that the corridors don’t need to be air conditioned, it just needs a tempered environment, which we’ve done through sustainable methods, like shading and radiant cooling, which is simply about using water to create cooling in these 22-km long corridors.

FOOD SPOT

The appam eaters

Lovers of the fluffy rice pancake can have their fill at Thalaivar’s new location



RAHUL VERMA
I have become a bit of an appam fiend. “Give appam, shall eat,” is my new mantra. That’s why, when I heard that a south Indian restaurant had opened up in Hauz Khas, my ears perked up. So last Sunday, I landed up there with family. Thalaivar, as the restaurant is called, is in the Hauz Khas Market. It was there

earlier, on the first floor of the market, but has recently moved to its grand new premises on the ground floor of the small market. The chef is from Bengaluru, and his wife cheerfully helps diners navigate the menu. I could tell that some of the patrons that afternoon were regulars, while a few were walk-ins, who needed hand-holding. I knew what I wanted, of course: Appam, with Pepper Chicken (₹325). Along with that, we asked for Parottas and Roast Mutton (₹355), Mutton Keema Dosa (₹220) and Prawn Roast (₹325). The food is cooked fresh once or-

dered, so we knew we had to wait a bit for the mains to arrive. Meanwhile we had the prawns, which were crunchy and delicious. The masala – with curry leaves and chillies – was nice and spicy. Then came the main dishes. I concentrated on the appam, which I had with some of the Mutton Roast. The roast, in a thick curry, was delicious; the curry was wonderfully fragrant and



had just the right balance of spices, and the meat was truly melt-in-mouth. I savoured the flavour of the pepper in the gravy, and the mild sweetness of fried onions. I then tried out half a parotta with the Pepper Chicken. The chicken, which was essentially small boneless pieces in mildly hot gravy – was tender, and the gravy went well with the crispy

and flaky Parottas. I ended my meal with a last bite of the Appam and the Mutton Roast, wiping the last of the gravy with a piece of the soft appam, and popping it happily into my mouth. The Keema Dosa, I am sorry to say, left us all cold. The keema was alright – cooked as it should have been – but somehow the batter of the dosa was a bit too sweet, which didn’t work well with

Authenticity matters
Appam; interiors of Thalaivar
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the minced meat. But the other dishes were simply superb. For breakfast (the place opens at 11 a.m.), it offers a host of dishes including Egg Appam (₹110) and Masala Ham Egg Appam (₹150). Then they have Idlis with Kori Ghassi (₹265) and Mysore Masala Dosa (₹160). The helpings are good, and our table of four had a nice meal. Did I say four? Sorry, one among us was on a Navratri fast, and merely had some cold coffee. Thalaivar is a pleasant and sunny place, with a helpful and smiling staff. The walls are covered with some cheerful portraits of Thalaivar – aka Rajinikanth. We had a good time – uncle, aunt, niece and nephew. Fast notwithstanding.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

HORS D’OEUVRES

Experimenting with flavour

Glenfiddich’s brief to their India brand ambassador, Angad Singh Gandhi was simple: to create a sensorial experience around the whisky, while keeping its flavour intact. After visiting eight laboratories that work with flavours and elixirs for the food and beverage industry, Angad decided to work with Malabar Secrets, a spice-flora extracts brand. “We wanted to create something that was not too overpowering, something that would complement the 12-year-old whisky,” he says. Together they created three: Sweet Obsession, Dufftown Confluence and Bittersweet Symphony. The first has notes of clove, coriander and six other spices; the second has cinnamon and bitter orange; while the third has Mysore jasmine, clove, and quinine. “Pepper is very important in any elixir and holds the flavour together,” says Angad, adding that they’ve used both black and cayenne. The idea was to put together a box that could be taken to a table in a bar so people can experiment with building their own drink, at no extra cost. In the box is a spiced honey which adds another layer to the flavour.



Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION
Mixed media
Meghalaya artists Careen J. Langsteih and Conrad Syiem have put together a joint exhibition titled ‘Kynmaw: to remember, memories, to take note, to bear in mind’. Careen’s series showcases portraits of women, while Conrad’s work is a Cyanotype photographic print technique.
VENUE: Art Gallery, Annexe Building, IIC
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD
Navratri bowl
SodaBottleOpenerWala, a food chain that specialises in Parsi and North Indian cuisine, is offering a special bowl for Navratri. This bowl consists of Sabudana Khichdi, Sukhi Masala Arbi, Aloo ki Sabzi, Vrat ka Pulav, Cucumber and Mint Salad with Masala Makhana, Raw Banana Chips, and Pomegranate Raita.
VENUE: All outlets in Delhi/NCR
TIME: 12 noon - 11 p.m.



MUSIC
Gunijan Sabha
Ustad Imamuddin Khan Dagar Indian Music Art & Culture Society is organising the Gunijan Sabha Verse 54. Eminent Urdu Shaira Ameeta Parsuram ‘Meeta’ will be in conversation with poet, Azhar Iqba. Following this, ghazal singers, Oshin Bhatia and Brijesh Mishra will render ghazals composed by Ameeta Parsuram.
VENUE: CD Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.



FOOD
Navratri special
The restaurant Zambar has a special platter for the Navratri period. On until 7th October, this special vegetarian thali will have dishes like Sabudana Vada, Pumpkin Erissery, Tomato Rasam, Paneer Masala, Samak Appam, Sabudana Kheer, along with Sabudana Papad and Cucumber Salad.
VENUE: Zambar, Ambience Mall, Gurugram
TIME: 12 noon - 4 p.m.



RETAIL
Good Earth Mela
The third edition of Good Earth’s festive shopping mela, called Schezade Mina Bazaar will start today. This three-day mela will showcase silhouettes like chogas, sharras, kurtas and lehengas accentuated with zari, resham, dabka-pitta. The mela will see participation from labels like Pero, Artisau, and Tilla.
VENUE: Good Earth Store, Khan Market
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

War: on Hindustan's secret service

In this battle of intelligence agents, there's plenty to feast on with Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff



Guns and poses: War gains much from the chemistry between Tiger Shroff and Hrithik Roshan. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

Somewhere in the middle of *War*, intelligence agent Neha (Anupriya Goenka) coquettishly tells her boss Kabir (Hrithik Roshan) that she is willing to elope and get married to him, were he to ask her. To which agent Khalid (Tiger Shroff) with eyes bashfully down, a shy smile playing on his lips, tells her to fall in line.

All with an unmistakable and cute proprietorial air; not reserved for Neha mind you, but for Kabir. So, to put it straight and simple, *War* gains much from the chemistry between Khalid and Kabir, nay Shroff and Roshan, that sets the screen smoking and sizzling, be it a

dance-off, facing the enemy's bullets together, engaging in bare handed (and bare-chested) duels or racing on bikes and cars in chases through scenic cobbled streets or cold expanse of ice.

Their perfect consonance and well matched tuning and rhythm makes them one of the best on screen couples in recent times. The loving glances and longing looks that they constantly throw at one another, seem to spell much more than an innocent bromance.

Not that anyone is complaining. Certainly not when the buff, tanned Roshan scorches the screen by merely walking across it or towards the audience. His glares on,

and swagger supported ably by rippling muscles with just the right sprinkling of salt in the peppery hair. All this complete with the tricolour fluttering away in the corner of a very fetching desi *Top Gun* frame.

The fit and fluid Shroff is just as effective with his lightning fast moves and sharp chops. So much so that I didn't even realise the total absence of the heroine, Vaani Kapoor, until the interval. "I don't think anyone will look at me," she had said in an interview about working with Roshan and Shroff.

Quite right. She is almost inconsequential in this tale of an agent trying to nab and wage a war against his mentor who

has turned rogue, even as India itself needs to be saved from the terror of the dreaded villain Rizwan Ilyasi. So does Kapoor break the cosy Roshan-Shroff partnership? Far from it. She makes the obligatory bikini-clad entry and does little else in the film other than bringing in a tiny plot twist.

What works for *War* is that it's able to mix some giddy elements of the Hindi spy thrillers (*Aankhen*, 2002; *Agent Vinod*, 2012)–like hidden lairs, blown covers, tapped phones, deadly poison, hidden transmitters, mistaken identities – and give it a modern spit and polish.

There is the across the globe chase through many fetching locations – from

War

DIRECTOR: Siddharth Anand
CAST: Hrithik Roshan, Tiger Shroff, Ashutosh Rana, Vaani Kapoor, Anupriya Goenka
STORYLINE: An intelligence agent wages a war against his mentor who has turned rogue, at a time when India needs to be saved from the terror of the dreaded villain Rizwan Ilyasi.

panoramic Connaught Place in Delhi to Malta, Marrakesh, Portugal, to some that are spectacular even in their destruction like Tikrit. There are some electrifying and astonishingly executed action sequences – in the air, earth, ice and water, and not just on airplanes but flying jeeps too.

All of which, makes *War* nifty enough to be in the league of the Bond or Hollywood films and many notches higher than the high profile actioners from Yashraj's own stable like *Ek Tha Tiger* (2012) and *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017).

Despite there being nothing new and everything predictable about it, *War* is slick and smart and keeps the audience engaged and absorbed.

What irks is the nth iteration of a Muslim trying to prove his loyalty for Bharat. The good Muslim shoved in to balance out the global Islamic terror. Why do it so needlessly and thoughtlessly when the film is successful enough in its larger aim of providing "entertainment, entertainment, entertainment"?



Mirror mirror: Joaquin Phoenix's brilliant performance as Joker. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(Joaquin) Phoenix from the ashes

Joker stuns with visual craft and an outstanding lead performance

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Hurt people, hurt people. This tale, as old as time, forms one of two overarching themes in *Joker*, that kicks off DC's Black series, standalone features non-canon to the original DC Universe. Though Batman has been around for 80 years, Joker made his first appearance simply a year after the caped crusader crashed into collective pop culture. But every adaptation – animated, feature or otherwise – has featured the villain with varying and often disparate, origin stories. The 2019 Todd Phillips attempt, for the first time, dedicates an intense character study to the super villain, made famous by Heath Ledger in *The Dark Knight* (2008).

Relayed over two hours, *Joker* chronicles the rise of the green-haired snarl-faced psychopath with an insatiable appetite for destruction. Set in decrepit Gotham, the film focuses on the life of Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix), a wannabe stand-up comedian who's never felt a moment of happiness in his entire life. His days are marred with struggles as a clown for hire, caring for his ailing mother and receiving blow after blow, literally from the calous and cruel.

Director Phillips works with a screenplay he co-wrote with

Joker

DIRECTOR: Todd Phillips
CAST: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz, and Frances Conroy
STORYLINE: Arthur Fleck just wants to make people happy, but society does everything it can to hurt him

Scott Silver, using a decaying society as a metaphor for the times we live in.

The rich stomp on the dreams of the poor, while those particularly vulnerable, like the mentally ill, continue to be neglected and eventually plummet over the edge of sanity. True though the allegory may be, Phillips' plea to sympathise with a straight white man's collapse to crime is stretched. It's a dangerous fine line when the result is the violent rallying of the disenfranchised. The director's incessant desire to elicit pity for a character so abused, eventually implodes on itself. Instead, its echoes all those times criminals have snatched lives of the innocent as an outlet to their outrage.

Joker's morality is highly questionable, but the film's best is Phoenix. If Ledger gave life to the maddening violence of the character, an emaciated Phoenix in *Joker*, gives the villain a

humanity we never thought possible. His transformation from misunderstood to murderous abandon is sublime. The yearning of dreams fulfilled and a parent who never was, is seen in every sincere hopeful smile. Equally evident is the distinct shift in his perception to becoming reckless.

It's with the actor that Phillips exhibits brilliant sleight of hand, never crossing over to indulgence. Better yet is the director's construction of Gotham, crafting an atmosphere of grim despondency. Lawrence Sher's cinematography is visually stunning, luring a viewer into the fictional city. Drawing cues from Martin Scorsese's *The King of Comedy* (1983) – featuring Robert Di Nero as a mentally unstable comedian – Phillips' use of tragic humour hits home immediately.

Even the film's music deserves a special mention, whose incongruity would never make important moments as impactful: from Frank Sinatra's 'That's Life' to Cream's 'White Room' and Gary Glitter's 'Hey Song'. Phillips probably intended *Joker's* social commentary to leave audiences with a lasting impression. Thankfully, its diluted and confused message is vastly overshadowed by an outstanding performance by Phoenix.

POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



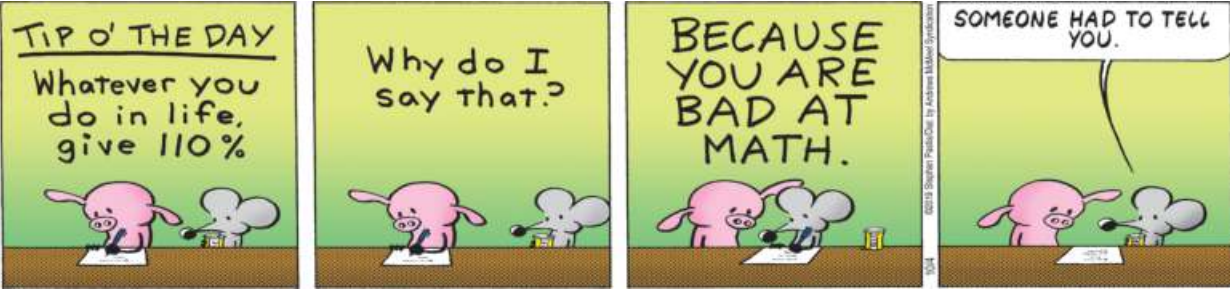
TIGER



WUMO



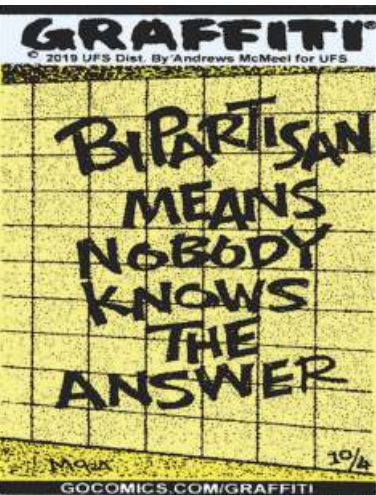
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



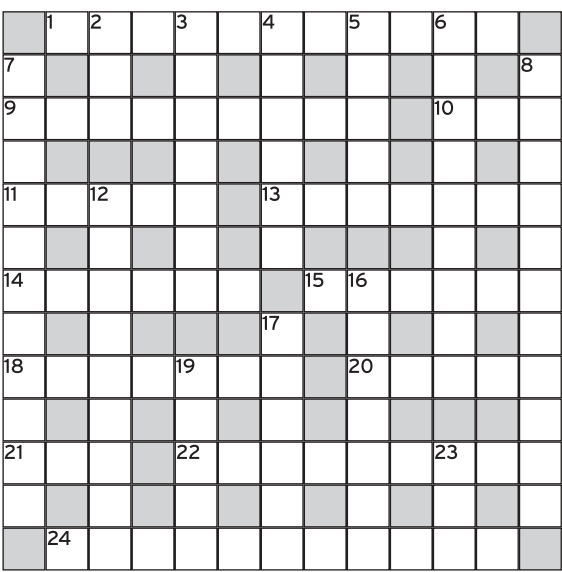
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13191



- Across
- 1 Consisting of small disconnected parts (11)
 - 9 Annexe (9)
 - 10 Sheep (3)
 - 11 Shocking weapon (5)
 - 13 Animal – per load (anag) (7)
 - 14 Imitates satirically (6)
 - 15 Lurid (6)
 - 18 Give a spoken account (7)
 - 20 Well-groomed (5)
 - 21 Perform(ance) (3)
 - 22 Invoke evil – crime tape (anag) (9)
 - 24 Needless (11)
- Down
- 2 Furrow caused by wheels (3)
 - 3 Applicable to an entire class (7)
 - 4 Fit to eat (6)

E	S	T	U	A	R	I	A	N	G	A	N	G	
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Solution will appear in The Hindu dated October 5, 2019.

Solution No.13190

Mayank, spinners have South Africa on the mat

The opener converts his maiden Test hundred into a double while Rohit scores 176; Ashwin and Jadeja then make inroads



Gradual progression: Mayank Agarwal played himself in, rotated the strike, and then unleashed the big shots against South Africa on Thursday. ■K.R. DEEPAK

SA IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR
VISAKHAPATNAM

From the ground here you can glimpse stretches of the Eastern Ghats that dot the coastline. It's a wonderful sight of nature adding to cricket's lure.

Perhaps, Mayank Agarwal was inspired by the mountains. For the opener conquered a peak, converting his maiden Test hundred into a double.

Playing only in his fifth Test, Mayank – organised, focussed and clinical in execution – progressed to 215 against South Africa on the second day of the first Freedom Test here on Thursday.

And India, on a surface beginning to play tricks and increasingly assist spinners, declared at a mammoth 502 for seven and then made inroads.

Flight and drift
R. Ashwin spun one back into Aiden Markram to pierce the gate and rearrange the stumps and then had Theu-

nis de Bruyn flummoxed by a delivery of tantalising flight and drift; 'keeper Saha revealed safe hands. Moments later Ravindra Jadeja prised out nightwatchman Dane Piedt. The Indian celebrations had begun.

The core of the Indian innings was a 317-run opening partnership between Mayank and Rohit Sharma in 82 overs; the third highest first wicket Test association for India.

And Rohit's 176 was high on entertainment and skill. He also displayed application combating the new ball.

Mayank and Rohit combined admirably reading the different passages of play well. The Indian think-tank sees possibilities in this opening combination.

Steely determination
For someone who has fought hard for his opportunities, there is this steely determination in Mayank. He is not young at 28, but the scars of a relentless struggle have prepared him well.

Against the Proteas here,

he saw off the new ball, played himself in, rotated the strike, accelerated gradually, and then unleashed the big shots.

Importantly, Mayank played through sessions, kept his concentration going and built a monument. Temperament, he has in plenty.

He used his feet against spin, an inside-out off-drive off Keshav Maharaj was a top shot. Soon he skipped down to loft the left-arm spinner for a six.

Technique & composure
Mayank played out the second new ball and handled both Rabada and Philander with technique and composure. Then, when the team required quick runs, he accelerated, boldly smoking the ball over the man at covers, sweeping and reverse sweeping.

This was an innings when Rohit, despite his strokeful methods, attempted to play closer to his body against the pacemen.

Yet, Rohit had a slice of luck in the morning when

STAT SPHERE

1 Rohit and Mayank have hit the highest number of sixes (12) as an opening pair in a Test innings

Most sixes by openers in a Test innings

- 12 Rohit (6)-Mayank (6) vs SA, Visakhapatnam, 2019

- 11 Hayden (11)-Langer vs Zim, Perth, 2003-04
- 11 McCullum (11)-Latham vs Pak, Sharjah, 2014-15

1 This is the first time two openers from a country other than England and Australia have made centuries in the same innings against South Africa

2 Mayank is the second Indian to score a double century as an opener in Tests, after Sehwag (293 vs Sri Lanka, Brabourne, Mumbai, 2009)

2 Mayank is the second batsman to register a double hundred in his first innings on Indian soil, after Dean Jones (210 vs India, Chennai, 1986)

3 Number of instances the Indian openers have registered a 300-plus stand in Tests. This is only the 14th

- 300-plus opening partnership in history
- 300-plus opening stands for India**
- 413 Pankaj Roy-Vinoo Mankad vs NZ, Chennai, 1956
- 410 Sehwag-Dravid vs Pak, Lahore, 2006
- 317 Rohit-Mayank vs SA, Visakhapatnam, 2019

3 This is Mayank's third 200-plus score in First Class cricket after the 304* for Karnataka vs Maharashtra (2017) and 220 for India-A vs South Africa-A (2018)

3 Muthusamy becomes the third bowler, after Rabada and Alzarri Joseph, to have Kohli as his maiden Test wicket

4 Number of Indian batsmen who have converted their maiden Test hundred into at least a double ton

- Dilip Sardesai 200* vs NZ, 1965
- Vinod Kambli 224 v Eng, 1993
- Mayank Agarwal 215 vs SA, 2019
- Karun Nair 303* vs Eng, 2016

86 Mayank is the 86th Indian to register a Test century. It is also the 510th hundred for India

Philander got a delivery to deviate away from a good length and 'keeper Quinton de Kock, standing up, could not snaffle a thin nick.

Switching gears
Rohit, on 125 then, soon switched gears, and went after the spinners. The bat speed, the suppleness of wrists, the quickness of feet and the ability to pick length were his allies as he destroyed spin.

And much like Virender Sehwag, Rohit harnesses the pace on the ball of the quicker bowlers with sharp reflexes, deft touch, and an inborn sense of placement.

The South African attack took a pounding before Rohit fell to a clever piece of bowling from the tireless Maharaj. The left-armed, who had been bowling faster through the air, finally sent down one with flight and turn.

Going forward, Rohit missed and de Kock whipped off the bails. The dismissal showed how important it was for spinners to vary their trajectory and impart revs against the Indian batsmen.

Cheteshwar Pujara, per-

haps playing down the wrong line, was bowled by a Philander delivery, with the second new ball, that shaped away slightly.

Disbelief
And then, Virat Kohli stood with disbelief after he mis-cued a ball, that kept a tad low and spun away, back to gleeful bowler Senuran

Muthusamy. It was the debutant left-arm spinning all-rounder's first Test wicket.

India lost wickets in pursuit of runs. But then, Mayank raising his arms in triumph after reaching a much-cherished double century was the enduring image of the day.

Good things happen to people who wait.

SCOREBOARD	
INDIA – 1ST INNINGS Mayank Agarwal c Piedt b Elgar 215 (371b, 23x4, 6x6), Rohit Sharma st. de Kock b Maharaj 176 (244b, 23x4, 6x6), Cheteshwar Pujara b Philander 6 (17b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c & b Muthusamy 20 (40b, 4x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Bavuma b Maharaj 15 (43b, 2x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 30 (46b, 1x6), Hanuma Vihari c Elgar b Maharaj 10 (24b, 1x4), Wriddhiman Saha c Muthusamy b Piedt 21 (16b, 4x4), R. Ashwin (not out) 1 (17b); Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-2, w-1): 8; Total (for seven wkts. decl. in 136 overs): 502.	hari, 126.4), 7-494 (Saha, 131.3).
FALL OF WICKETS 1-317 (Rohit, 81.6 overs), 2-324 (Pujara, 88.1), 3-377 (Kohli, 103.1), 4-431 (Rahane, 117.6), 5-436 (Mayank, 119.4), 6-457 (Vi-	SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING Philander 22-4-68-1, Rabada 24-7-66-0, Maharaj 55-6-189-3, Piedt 19-1-107-1, Muthusamy 15-1-63-1, Elgar 1-0-4-1.
INDIA BOWLING Ishant 2-0-8-0, Shami 2-2-0-0, Ashwin 8-4-9-2, Jadeja 8-1-21-1.	SOUTH AFRICA – 1ST INNINGS Dean Elgar (batting) 27 (63b, 2x4, 1x6), Aiden Markram b Ashwin 5 (21b, 1x4), Theunis de Bruyn c Saha b Ashwin 4 (25b, 1x4), Dane Piedt b Jadeja 0 (4b), Temba Bavuma (batting) 2 (7b); Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 39.

As an opener you have to set the tone: Mayank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Mayank Agarwal's double hundred here saw the opener showcasing different aspects of his batsmanship.

The Karnataka batsman said he accelerated after reaching the three-figure mark for the first time in his fledgling Test career.

Mayank said here on Thursday, "After 100, I started pushing. Having crossed that milestone put some nerves at ease and then playing on this wicket for some time gave me confidence."

Mayank, always a team man, said, "You just have to back yourself and contribute to the team. It is very clear in the side that it is not only about big runs, it is about winning crucial situations. If you do that, nothing like it. As an opener you have to set the tone for your side."

On his massive 317-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma, Mayank said, "For him to get such a big score opening the batting for the first time is tremendous. We all really enjoyed the way he batted. The way he took on the spinners, the way he paced his innings."

Communicating well
He added, "It was great batting alongside him. It was good that we could get such a big partnership for India early on. We communicated well."

Mayank said, "We were quite happy with the way we were batting and it was good that we were able to manipulate the field. They started to bowl on the pads and it

was nice to get a couple of boundaries to make them shift the fielders. Then I reverse swept."

About the little adjustments he had to make in different conditions, Mayank said, "In Australia there is more bounce so you have to stand a bit more upright. India, like we saw, the ball started keeping a bit low."

Long distance running
Mayank revealed long distance running helped in his fitness. "This has enabled me bat for long periods."

The opener said skipper Virat Kohli egged him to go on to a bigger score after he reached his hundred. "So it's about the team, the way they encourage, and the environment that is created to go out there and perform. It's not about personal milestones."

South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj said, "Obviously, we knew it was going to be quite flat in the first innings and the wicket would then deteriorate. Having said that, yeah, didn't go according to plan in terms of controlling the run-rate."

Maharaj said, "I think the cracks have been opening up a little bit because of the heat around. So there is a little bit of assistance coming through now as opposed to when we started or say the first day and a half. Toss plays a part in matches here but we could have been better in what we did."

He said, "These are still early days in Mayank's Test career but he batted with a lot of maturity."



Beaten all end's up: Aiden Markram is bowled by a beauty from R. Ashwin. ■K.R. DEEPAK

India crushes South Africa

The bowlers, backed by agile fielders, restrict visitors to 98

SA-WOMEN IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
SURAT

They fielded like tigresses. They bowled like misers. They batted like pros.

The Women in Blue are getting better and better in the shortest format. The South Africans made them look even better as they slid to their third defeat in as many matches at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in front of another full house on a pleasant Thursday night. The Indians went 3-0 up, with a match to play on Friday.

After restricting the visitors to 98 for eight, the hosts romped home with plenty to spare – five wickets and 17 balls.

It was never going to be a difficult chase and skipper Harmanpreet ensured that there were no hiccups. She remained unbeaten on 34 off 32 balls.

Her fourth-wicket partnership of 50 with Deepti Sharma, who had an excellent all-round game, calmed



Guiding hand: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur ensured that India crossed the finish line with plenty to spare. ■VIJAY SONJI

the nerves in the dressing room when India lost the third wicket at 29. The South Africans had an opportunity to put behind them the horror show on the field in the last game, but there weren't enough runs on the board to do that.

Earlier, Harmanpreet's decision to bowl first was vindicated.

The Indians were also helped by some poor batting from the visitors. On this night, though, they were given a reasonable start by Li-

zelle Lee and captain Sune Luus, who promoted herself in the order. They, however, struggled to get going.

When Lee broke the shackles, stepping out to smash off-spinner Deepti above her head and sweeping her over square-leg, in the fifth over, it looked as though the Proteas might be able to put up a substantial score for the first time in the series. That was not to be.

It was another sparkling show by the Indian spinners under a starless sky.

SCOREBOARD	
SOUTH AFRICA Lizelle Lee c Smriti b Poonam 16 (22b, 4x4), Sune Luus lbw b Radha 7 (14b, 1x4), Laura Wolvdaart b Harmanpreet 17 (20b, 3x4), Nadine de Klerk c Deepti b Radha 11 (15b, 1x4), Mignon du Preez c Deepti b Shikha 10 (13b, 1x4), Lara Goodall st Bhatia b Deepti 15 (24b, 1x4), Anneke Bosch c Smriti b Radha 11 (8b, 2x4), Shabnam Ismail c Veda b Shikha 0 (1b), Ayabonga Khaka (not out) 1 (3b); Extras (b-4, lb-2, nb-1, w-1): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 98.	1-23 (Luus, 5.1 overs), 2-25 (Lee, 6.4), 3-57 (Wolvdaart, 11.2), 4-59 (de Klerk, 12.1), 5-74 (du Preez, 15.4), 6-96 (Bosch, 18.6), 7-96 (Ismail, 19.1), 8-96 (Goodall, 19.2).
INDIA BOWLING Deepti 4-0-19-2, Shikha 4-0-15-1, Radha 4-0-23-3, Poonam 4-1-15-1, Harmanpreet 3-0-13-1, Pooja 1-0-7-0.	INDIA Shefali Verma c Lee b Ismail 14 (12b, 3x4), Smriti Mandhana c Ismail b Khaka 7 (15b, 1x4), Jemimah Rodrigues c&b Luus 7 (11b, 1x4), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 34 (32b, 4x4), Deepti Sharma c&b Ismail 16 (24b, 1x4),
FALL OF WICKETS 1-14 (Shafali, 2.3 overs), 2-28 (Smriti, 5.5), 3-29 (Jemimah, 6.2), 4-79 (Deepti, 14.3), 5-90 (Veda, 15.6).	SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING Ismail 4-0-19-2, Khaka 3.1-0-13-1, Sekhukhune 2-0-20-0, Luus 1-0-4-1, de Klerk 4-0-23-1, Mlaba 2-0-13-0, Bosch 1-0-5-0.
Toss: India. Player-of-the-Match: Harmanpreet.	India won by five wickets with 17 balls to spare.

BCCI election – first ‘D Day’ today

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The cricketing fraternity with interest in BCCI's administration and election will get a chance to mull over the probable line-up of the pioneering nine-member Apex Council that will replace, until recently the powerful, Working Committee once the electoral officer N. Goplaswami releases the Draft Electoral Roll at 5 p.m. on Friday.

While announcing the

election schedule on September 26, Gopalaswami asked the 37 full members (Chandigarh is an associate member without voting rights) to submit applications to have their representatives for the general meeting / election to be held here on October 23.

Not only will the election be held for five office-bearers (president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer) and one member representing the BCCI Full

members, but also for two members to the IPL Governing Council.

After examination of objections, if any, the final electoral roll will be released on October 10. A clear picture of the candidates for eight positions will be known on October 16. With CoA running BCCI's affairs from January 2017, there is plenty of buzz around even among club level members of a large number of States about the BCCI, finally, taking charge of

things.

The eligibility of a member association to take part in the AGM / Election will be decided by the CoA, based on the fact of the association being BCCI Constitution compliant or not. The BCCI Constitution, approved by the Supreme Court, was registered with the Tamil Nadu Registrar of Societies in August 2018. The CoA will also find out if the nominated representative is free of the disqualification rule to attend

the AGM. The CoA believes it has the authority to decide on the eligibility aspect for the member association and its representative, but the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) has asserted that the Supreme Court has not given such authority to the CoA. The electoral officer has said that he will go by the CoA mandate.

News heard on the grapevine is that a big shot aligned to the BJP may become the BCCI president.

Asher-Smith wins 200m

IAAF World Athletics Championships DOHA2019
بطولة العالم للالعاب القوى - الدوحة

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

Dina Asher-Smith ended Britain's 36-year wait for a short sprint title at the World Championships on Wednesday by claiming the 200 metres as Grant Holloway of the United States stormed to victory in the 110m hurdles.

The other gold of the day came in the men's hammer throw, where Pawel Fajdek of Poland defended his 2017 crown.

Among Indians, shot put-



Dina Asher-Smith. ■REUTERS

Salah bails out Liverpool

Suarez brace fires Barcelona to comeback win

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Champions League holder Liverpool came out on top of a 4-3 thriller with Salzburg on Wednesday after throwing away a three-goal lead at Anfield before Mohamed Salah's winner, while Luis Suarez fired Barcelona to a comeback victory over Inter Milan.

Salah won the Group E match for Liverpool with his second of the night in the 69th minute, denying Salzburg a point.

Suarez saved Barcelona's blushes at the Camp Nou after Lautaro Martinez had scored early for Inter, which then failed to capitalise on its first-half dominance in the Group F clash and lost 2-1.

The results:
Group E: Genk 0 drew with Napoli 0; Liverpool 4 (Mane 9, Robertson 25, Salah 36, 69) bt Red Bull Salzburg 3 (Hwang Hee-Chan 39, Minamino 56,



Floored: A moment of sublime finishing by Barcelona's Luis Suarez leaves the Inter defence in tatters. ■AP

Haaland 60).

Group F: Slavia Prague 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Hakimi 35, 89);

Barcelona 2 (Suarez 58, 84) bt Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 2).

Group G: RB Leipzig 0 lost to Lyon 2 (Depay 11, Terrier 65);

Zenit St Petersburg 3 (Dzyuba 21, Dias 70-og, Azmoun 78) bt Benfica 1 (De Tomas 85).

Group H: Lille 1 (Osimhen 33) lost to Chelsea 2 (Abraham 22, Willian 78); Valencia 0 lost to Ajax 3 (Ziyech 8, Promes 34, van de Beek 67).

TV PICKS

India v South Africa: 1st Test, third day, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
Hero Women's Indian Open golf: DSport, 12.30 p.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
India (W) v South Africa (W): Fifth T20I, Star Sports 1 (HD) & Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 1; Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
IAAF World Championships: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 10.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Puneri Paltan pips Telugu Titans
PANCHKULA
Puneri Paltan edged out Telugu Titans 53-50 in a closely-fought Pro Kabaddi League match on Thursday. The defeat meant Telugu Titans' chances of making it to the playoffs came to a halt with UP Yoddha securing the final spot in the top six.
The result: Puneri Paltan 53 (Manjeet 12, Sail 11) bt Telugu Titans 50 (Rakesh Gowda 17, Farhad Milaghardan 10).

Saumitra to meet Nandini in final
GURUGRAM
Second seed Saumitra Jagadeo Verma fought her way past Raja Sarvagnya Kilaru 6-4, 7-6(2) in the girls semifinals of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament on Thursday.
The results:
Boys, semifinals: Siddharth Marathe bt Dhruv Kumar 6-1, 6-2; Vansh Nandal bt Harsh Fogaat 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.
Girls, semifinals: Nandini Dixit bt Riya Sachdeva 3-6, 6-1, 6-3; Saumitra Jagadeo Verma bt Raja Sarvagnya Kilaru 6-4, 7-6(2).

Bopanna and Divij out of Japan Open
TOKYO
Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan, partnering different players, lost in the doubles quarterfinals of the Japan Open here on Thursday.
The results
Japan Open (quarterfinals): Nikola Mektic & Franko Skugor (Cro) bt Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna 6-4, 5-7, [11-9]; Nicolas Mahut & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) bt Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan 7-6(5), 6-3.
\$25,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Second round: Yan Bai (Chn) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 6-3; Nam Hoang Ly (Vie) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-3, 7-6(9).
\$15,000 ITF women, Pretoria, South Africa: Second round: Caroline Romeo (Fra) bt Sri Vaishnavi Peddi Reddy 6-2, 6-4; Tina Nadine Smith (Aus) bt Snehal Mane 6-0, 6-2; Zeel Desai bt Alexandra Riley (USA) 6-1, 6-2.

Vijay Goel elected DBSA president
NEW DELHI
Vijay Goel and Ravi Tandon were elected president and secretary of the Delhi Billiards and Snooker Association. Other office-bearers are A.K. Garg (treasurer), Amarjit Singh, Abhishek Rastogi and Amit Sharma (vice-presidents); H.S. Bhogal and Aayush Bansal (joint-secretaries).

Rahul stars for PCA
NEW DELHI
Man-of-the-match Rahul Bhalla (four for 18) helped Players Cricket Academy (PCA) defeat Mount CC by three wickets in the first round of the 12th Pelicans (under-16) cricket tournament here.
The scores: Mount CC 151 in 34 overs (Divesh Negi 40, Rahul Bhalla four for 18, Kavya Gupta three for 16) lost to Players Academy 152 for seven in 30.1 overs (Yajesh Sharma 59, Kavya Gupta 30).

Haryana CA office-bearers
NEW DELHI
The Haryana Cricket Association elected its new office-bearers on Thursday.
The list: President: Kultar Malik; Secretary: Mrinal Ojha; Treasurer: Mahender Singh.

Goveas to meet Kunal in semifinals

Top seed Niki Poonacha will face former National champion Dalwinder Singh

NATL. TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI
Second seed Aryan Goveas had to fight his way past Suraj Prabodh for a 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3 win in the men's quarterfinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.
Aryan, slowly getting into his rhythm, was able to play with intensity at the crunch to shut the escape routes for the sweet-stroking Suraj, who had made the final two years ago.
The 20-year-old was on top of his game in the first set, but Suraj fought back in the second to stay on par. Aryan had a chance to close the match in the second set tie-break as he led 4-2, but erred.
In the decider, Aryan served big and unleashed strong strokes to pull through without much drama.
In the semifinals, Aryan will play Kunal Anand, who got past former Asian junior



Powerhouse: Vaidehi Chaudhari has dropped only five games in all to her three opponents so far. ■KAMESH SRINIVASAN

champion Nitin Kumar Sinha in the second set tie-break.
A bout of nerves
Kunal felt a bout of nerves as he missed two match points at 6-3 in the tie-break, but stroked clean to emerge victorious.
The other semifinal will feature top seed Niki Poonacha and former National champion Dalwinder Singh.
Dalwinder was quite sharp and explosive in overcoming the strong challenge from Ishaque Eqbal, who

failed to capitalise on a 5-3 lead in the second set.
Niki, in contrast, had a relatively easy against S.D. Prajwal Dev.
Fluent
In the women's section, Jagmeet Kaur was quite composed and played a fluent game to beat second seed Bhuvana Kalva in straight sets.
Jagmeet will challenge four-time national champion Prerna Bhambri in the semifinals. The other semifinal will be between top seed

Carmelita Jeter named event ambassador

HALF MARATHON

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Carmelita Jeter will be the international event ambassador for the 15th Airtel Delhi Half Marathon 2019 scheduled for October 20.
Jeter holds the record for the second-fastest timing in 100m (10.64 seconds) behind Florence Griffith-Joyner.
The 39-year-old Jeter clinched gold in the 4x100m

Sowjanya Bavisetti, who saw off the challenge from Salsa Aher, and favourite Vaidehi Chaudhari.

Vaidehi has dropped only five games in all to her three opponents so far.

The results: Men: Quarterfinals: Niki Poonacha bt SD Prajwal Dev 6-4, 6-3; Dalwinder Singh bt Ishaque Eqbal 7-6(4), 7-5; Kunal Anand bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-3, 7-6(5); Aryan Goveas bt Suraj Prabodh 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3.

Doubles: Semifinals: Ishaque Eqbal & Mohit Mayur bt Suresh Dhakshinewar & Parikshit Somani 6-4, 2-6, [10-7]; Niki Poonacha & S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Sahil Gaware & Rishab Agarwal 6-1, 6-4.

Women: Quarterfinals: Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Salsa Aher 6-2, 6-2; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi 6-1, 6-1; Prerna Bhambri bt Shreya Tatavarthy 6-2, 7-5; Jagmeet Kaur bt Bhuvana Kalva 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles: Semifinals: Yubarani Banerjee & Sai Samhitha bt Rishika Sunkara & Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-2, 5-7, [10-8]; Sai Deepdeeya & Sara Yadav bt Anusha Kondaveeti & Dakshata Patel 6-3, 3-6, [10-6].

relay, silver in the 100m event and bronze in the 200m event at the 2012 Olympic Games.

"It's an honor for me to be a part of this most prestigious half marathon as its event ambassador. It's amazing to see amateurs focus on running technique and train with passion, for a fitter lifestyle.

"I look forward to the complete experience and I am eager to watch runners on the 20th of October." Jeter said.

PNB bests BSes to take honours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Punjab National Bank won the 12th all-India Maharaja Ranjit Singh hockey tournament here on Thursday, edging past a fighting BSes, Delhi, in the shootout after the teams were tied 3-3 in regulation time.
BSes went ahead 2-0 before PNB fought back in the final quarter of the game, scoring thrice to level the game and take it into shootouts.
With a 3-1 lead and two minutes to go, BSes looked set to clinch the title but two penalty corner conversions in the last two minutes saw PNB turn the tables at the National Stadium.
In the shootout, PNB managed to score from all their four attempts while BSes could only manage two. Mohit and Pankaj missed for the runner-up.
The result (final): PNB 3 (Abhishek 2, Dinesh Sekar) bt BSes 3 (Pankaj, Pawan Malik, Lokesh Bora) on penalties.

Focus on Olympic weight divisions

NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI
BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

With about four months to go for the Asian Olympic qualifier, the focus will be on the Olympic weight divisions in the National boxing championships, starting at the Baddi University of Science and Technology, here from Friday.

As per the selection criteria finalised by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for the qualifiers, two World championships medalists – Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) – have already selected themselves for the Asian qualifier in Wuhan, China, in February.

In the remaining six weights – 57kg, 69kg, 75kg, 81kg, 91kg and +91kg – selection trials will be held

among boxers who competed in the World championships (and are exempted from participating in the Nationals), the finalists here and a top performer in each weight.

"There will be keen contests in Olympic weights. The fight will be also as good in 52kg and 63kg. If Amit and Manish don't qualify, then others may get a chance in the next (World) qualifier," said National head coach C.A. Kuttappa.

"Since the focus is on the Olympics, certain weights have been aligned with that of the Tokyo Games. Instead of 51kg, 56kg and 64kg, we are having 52kg, 57kg and 63kg respectively."

Former World youth champion Sachin Sivach, who jumped from 52kg to 57kg and beat Worlds me-

dallist Gaurav Bidhuri in the Railways selection trials, and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammed Hussamuddin from Services promise a strong battle in the bantamweight.

Prominent pugilists

Besides, World medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg), reigning 52kg National champion P.L. Prasad, National 60kg silver medallist Anush Dahiya (now in 64kg), another National silver medallist Dinesh Dagar (69kg) who upset an Olympic medal winner in GeeBee event this year, 64kg National title holder Rohit Tokas (now in 75kg) and promising Services man Lalampua (75kg) and Commonwealth Games medallist Naman Tanwar (91kg) will be some of the prominent boxers in action.

Rajat Sharma is DDCA representative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Rajat Sharma was on Thursday chosen to represent the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The DDCA, in a press release, asserted that the apex council decision "effectively puts to rest all rumours regarding Sharma's 'eligibility' to represent DDCA, apart from answering BCCI Electoral Officer's query to all State bodies, asking them to confirm their nominee before October 4."

In a resolution passed by the apex council, 11 out of 15 members, backed Sharma. The resolution read "We, the members of Apex Council of the DDCA, hereby convey our complete and unequivocal trust in the leadership of Mr. Rajat Sharma, President,

DDCA. We also declare and affirm his nomination as DDCA Representative on the BCCI, including for inclusion of his name in the electoral roll for the forthcoming BCCI elections."

DDCA joint secretary Rajan Manchanda said, "It's unfortunate that some people started a negative campaign with their own vested interests in mind, thus tarnishing DDCA's image.

No ambiguity
"We have all been very clear right from the beginning that Mr. Sharma will be our sole representative in the BCCI. It was a very well thought out decision and there was never any ambiguity over his candidature. However, given the recent developments of certain individuals propelling their own names, it was best that we made it very clear to all

stakeholders that our trust in Mr. Sharma remains firm and unshaken."

The members, meanwhile, cautioned the BCCI against the "self-nomination" of Vinod Tihara, the suspended secretary of the DDCA, as its representative.

The resolution said, "We, the undersigned, wish to assert that this action of Mr. Vinod Tihara is in utter defiance of the decision of the Apex Council of which he had full knowledge, and is in breach of the Articles of Association of the DDCA, both amounting to serious misconduct."

The resolution, highlighting his anti-DDCA activities, emphasised that Tihara was "not a person fit or appropriate for such a responsible role as DDCA Representative..."

Meghan and Whitney in joint lead

A fairly impressive day for the Indians

INDIAN OPEN

ANANT KAUR
GURUGRAM

England's Meghan MacLaren and Whitney Hillier of Australia carded five-under 67 in hot and humid conditions to be in joint lead at the end of day one of the Hero Women's Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club here on Thursday.

Good start
Meghan, who loves this course and believes it suits her game, had a good start with birdies in the first two holes but bogeyed on the fourth. On the back nine, she made four birdies.

"It was a bit of a mixture. I made a lot of birdies out there and was fought really really positively, thought I could have got some more. Back nine was very different from the front nine," said the Brit.

Norway's Mrianne Skarpnord shot 68 to be tied third with Liz Young of England. Linda Wessberg of Sweden



Meghan MacLaren.
■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was in fifth with three-under 69.

Morgan flops
Things didn't go quite well for defending champion Becky Morgan, who was five-over at 77 and tied at 78.
She hopes for a better score on Friday. "I was doing okay until I got to 17th, just

got really unlucky where my ball finished. 17th hole can cause so many problems but I have been fairly lucky at the 17th hole over so many years but this year got my number there.

"I was thinking a level par score would be a decent score not too far from the lead but this finish ruined my day. I just hope to get a revenge tomorrow," Becky told *The Hindu*.

Indians had a fairly impressive day. Amateur Pranavi Urs, tied at 10th overall, finished with one-under 71. Amandeep Drall, Diksha Dagar and Tvesa Malik are all tied 18th with a par score of 72.

Jyotsana Singh, a rookie on the circuit, made a hole-in-one at the 140-yard par-3 16th, using a 7-iron. She is tied at 28th at one-over par.

Astha Madan, Gaurika Bishnoi and Neha Tripathi also finished at 28th place.
Top scores: 67: Meghan MacLaren (Eng), Whitney Hillier (Aus); **68:** Marianne Skarpnord (Nor), Liz Young (Eng); **69:** Linda Wessberg (Swe).

Diamond Rays lights up feature

MYSURU: Mr. Shankar Srinivas' Diamond Rays (Srinath up) won the Chief Minister's Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Thursday (Oct 3). The winner is trained by Sriram Komandur.

1 MANDYA PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: AGNAR (Dashan) 1, Eco Friendly (J. Paswan) 2, Swiss Admiral (Rajesh K) 3 and Dolphin (M. Prabhakaran) 4. Not run: Singhsaab. 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and Nose. Im, 26.83s. ₹20 (w), 13, 28 and 159 (p), SHP: 63, THP: 204, FP: 145, Q: 122, Trinella: 1,540 and 1,320. Favourite: Agnar. Owners: M/s. Rajan Aggarwal & Gautam Agarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

2 JAYANAGARA PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: ALL IN (R. Anand) 1, Eloika (S. Shareef) 2, Monte Greco (N. Jodha) 3 and Sufficient Proof (Chetan G) 4. 3-1/4, 1-1/4 and Lnk. Im, 12.52s. ₹72 (w), 70, 14 and 13 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 61, FP: 6,344, Q: 2,402, Trinella: 50,778 (carried over) and 21,762. Favourite: Monte Greco. Owner: Mr. Babu Krishna Kishore. Trainer: J. Sharavanan.

5 CHIEF MINISTER'S TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 & above: DIAMOND RAYS (Srinath) 1, Hamed's Folly (Rayan) 2, Side Winder (Chetan G) 3 and Fringe Benefit (S. Shareef) 4. Not run: Regal Music. 3-1/2, 2-3/4 and 3-3/4. Im, 10.68s. ₹16 (w), 11, 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 43, FP: 45,

3 FLEET INDIAN PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: IRELAND (Rajesh K) 1, Big Time Bay (Chotu Jaiswar) 2, Felix Legion (Janardhan P) 3 and Oro Plate (Arshad) 4. Not run: Russian Spy. Snk, 2-1/4 and 3-1/2. Im, 13.08s. ₹17 (w), 11, 17 and 20 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 57, FP: 92, Q: 96, Trinella: 802 and 273. Favourite: Ireland. Owner: Mr. Babu Krishna Kishore. Trainer: J. Sharavanan.

4 M.A.M. RAMASWAMY TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65: GLORIOUS DESTINY (C. Umesh) 1, Colonel Hartly (Rajesh K) 2, Kimeria (Srinath) 3 and El Tycoon (Md. Mubshraf) 4. Nk, 2-1/4 and 7-3/4. Im, 23.84s. ₹37 (w), 13, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 52, FP: 196, Q: 169, Trinella: 225 and 63. Favourite: Kimeria. Owners: M/s. Vazhappambil John Joseph & Blesson J. Kallada. Trainer: J. Sebastian.

Q: 31, Trinella: 129 and 71. Favourite: Diamond Rays. Owner: Mr. Shankar Srinivas. Trainer: Sriram Komandur.

6 ELLORA PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45: GLORIOUS DANCER (Darshan) 1, Radiant Treasure (Arshad) 2, Chantelle (Dhebe) 3 and Another Rainbow (Rayan) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and Lnk. Im, 38.15s. ₹16 (w), 11, 12 and 26 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 55, FP: 80, Q: 56, Trinella: 441 and 225, Exacta: 3,518 (carried over) and 1,508. Favourite: Glorious Dancer. Owners: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda & Mrs. Shrubtha L. Gowda. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

7 JOC FALLS PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over: MURCILAGO (Chetan G) 1, Cyclone (C. Umesh) 2, Nikka (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Siddhani (Janardhan P) 4. 1, 3-1/2 and 3-4. Im, 12.28s. ₹47 (w), 14, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 54, FP: 78, Q: 56, Trinella: 259 and 133, Exacta: 552. Favourite: Cyclone. Owner: Mr. K.B. Appaiah. Trainer: C.D. Monnappa.
Jackpot: ₹2,076 (226 tkts); Runner-up: 97 (2,065 tkts); Treble (i): 1,094 (carried over); (ii): 230 (40 tkts).



Astronaut to watch rugby match from space
TOKYO
The Rugby World Cup will have its first extra-terrestrial broadcast when South Africa's game against Italy is beamed to the International Space Station — 408 km above Japan, organisers said on Thursday. Governing body World Rugby is providing a special feed of Friday's game for Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, who is a fan. **AFP**



'Sinatra of the East' Karel Gott dies at 80
PRAGUE
Czech pop singer Karel Gott, who was a particular favourite in neighbouring Germany where media once dubbed him the "Sinatra of the East", has died at 80, his family said. Gott had revealed last month he was undergoing treatment for leukaemia, years after recovering from cancer. **PTI**



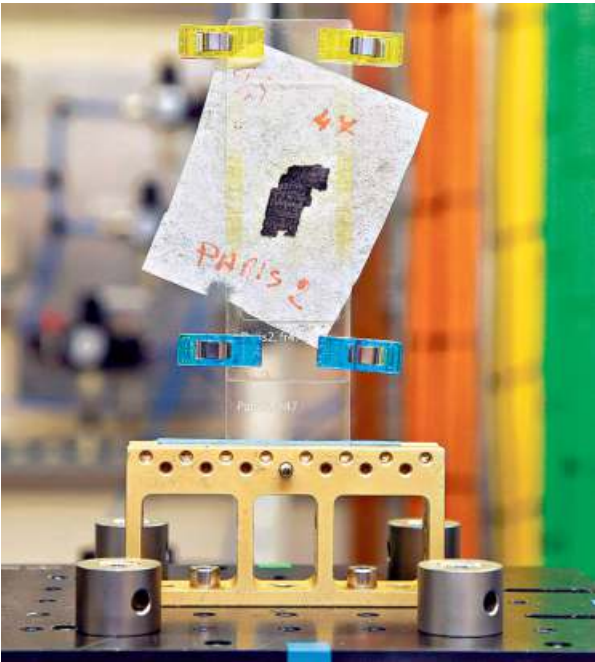
Judge denies bail for R. Kelly in sex abuse case
NEW YORK
R&B singer R. Kelly was denied bail on Wednesday in his New York City sex-abuse case after a judge agreed with prosecutors that freeing him from jail would create a risk of him fleeing or tampering with witnesses. U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly denied a defence motion asking to release him on bond and allow home detention. **AP**

U.K. particle accelerator could reveal secrets of ancient scrolls

2,000-year-old artefacts are being analysed by powerful rays of light

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DIDCOT
A leading science facility in the English countryside is helping in a bid to decipher Roman-era scrolls carbonised in the deadly eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago.
Researchers led by antiquities decoder Professor Brent Seales have turned to Diamond, Britain's national synchrotron in Didcot, Oxfordshire, to examine the papyrus, which are described as "fragile like butterfly wings".
They hope the synchrotron — which harnesses the power of electrons to produce powerful scans — could now end a decades-long effort to read the historic artefacts owned by the Institut de France.

"Our normal idea of a scroll is that you can just unroll it and read it," said Mr. Seales, director of the Digital Restoration Initiative at the University of Kentucky.
"But these scrolls can't be unrolled because the carbonisation makes them completely brittle and that brittle nature would damage it completely if you tried to bend it at all."
Instead, the Diamond facility acts like a giant microscope, producing light 10 billion times brighter than the sun that allows scientists to study anything from fossils and jet engines to viruses and vaccines.
"When the beam goes through the sample, it creates the possibility of an image that we can't really create any other way," Mr. Seales said.
The scrolls were discovered between 1752 and 1754 during excavations at the Herculaneum site near the Bay of Naples in southern



Fine lines: A piece of the Herculaneum scroll is pictured in the experimental hutch area after recently being scanned at Diamond Light Source in Didcot in Britain. (Below) A magnified view of a piece of the scroll. **• AFP**

Italy, in a house believed to have belonged to the family of Julius Caesar.
Unlike Pompeii, which was ravaged by lava during the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D., Herculaneum was struck by a fiery cloud, which covered the city with ash, entombing everything intact.
One of the houses — the "Villa of Papyrus" — housed an important library of more than 1,800 text scrolls.
Preserved by ashes
They were preserved by the ashes but carbonised and therefore impossible to unroll. In 1802, six of these rolls were donated by the king of Naples to Napoleon Bonaparte, who entrusted them to the library of the Institut de France in Paris to decipher.



But unfurling and reading them in their delicate state proved impossible, with two attempts in 1817 then in 1877 both failing.
More than a century later, in 1986, experts used a method involving chemicals to detach one scroll into several hundred small fragments.
"It was very difficult to read," said Yoann Brault, a researcher at the Institut's library, noting they were not able to trace the ink used.

Sania was asked to stop playing tennis as a child

She was told 'no one would marry' her

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tennis star Sania Mirza on Thursday revealed that as a child, she was once asked to stop playing as "no one would marry" her if her complexion turned "dark" due to the rigours of an outdoor sport.
Speaking at the World Economic Forum here during a discussion on women and leadership, Ms. Mirza said, "To start with, parents, neighbours, aunts and the uncles (need to) stop telling you how dark you will become and no one will marry you if you play a sport. I was just eight and everybody



thought nobody is going to marry me because I would get dark."
"It is so deeply embedded, this culture about how a girl needs to be pretty and by that also one means fair, I don't know why. This culture has to change," the sportswoman added.

New calendar imagines a 'world without climate change'

RAJEEV G.R.
VENICE

"Earth CelebriAction" is the theme of Lavazza's 2020 calendar, released here on Thursday, as the world heads into an uncertain future singed by extreme weather cycles, Amazon wildfires and brinkmanship over the climate deal.
Shot by the celebrated American photographer David LaChapelle for the Lavazza Group, the stunning photos set in Maui, Hawaii are as life affirming as they are a contrast to a world under siege by 20th century lifestyles. In their conception and execution, they are a fitting continuation of Amy Vitale's shots of art installations in natural settings in the "Good to Earth" series of the 2019 calendar.
Running through Mr. LaChapelle's works are a series of verbs: Listen, sustain, honour, reconnect, breathe,



A page from Lavazza's 2020 calendar. **• DAVID LACHAPELLE**

care, respect, change... In his own words, the photographs employ "magical realism and fantasy and uses the natural world as a heavenly garden... an escape to a better place, like a story book, a world without climate change, people living in harmony."
Francesca Lavazza of the foundation says the calendar is a celebration of variety. It calls for proactive and posi-

Killer fungus found in Australia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

One of the world's deadliest fungi has been discovered in Australia's far north for the first time — thousands of kilometres from its native habitat in the mountains of Japan and Korea.
The Poison Fire Coral fungus was discovered in a suburb of Cairns by a local photographer and subsequently identified by scientists, James Cook University announced on Thursday. Several people have died in Japan and Korea after mistaking the bright red fungi for edible mushrooms.

A few good men



Here to stay: Actor Dev Patel with child actors Ranveer Jaiswal, right, and Jairaj Varsani at the premiere of *The Personal History Of David Copperfield* during the London Film Festival on Wednesday. Patel plays the grown-up Copperfield while Jaiswal plays the character as a child. **• TIM P. WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES/BFI**

SuperM to debut in Hollywood

REUTERS
SEOUL

K-pop supergroup SuperM, formed by seven members of different South Korean boy bands, are set to make their Hollywood debut.
They are due to make their debut at the Capitol Records Tower in Los Angeles on Saturday.
"It feels like a dream, especially because its with these members," one of the group, who goes by the name Taemin, told a news conference in Seoul.
Taemin is a member of the group SHINee. The other members of SuperM are from the bands EXO, NCT 127 and WayV.
South Korean pop groups are becoming increasingly popular across Asia and beyond.

Duo brings fado music out of closet

Portugal's traditional style of folk song gets a new twist from the band

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LISBON

Wearing a long black wig, fishnet stockings and a miniskirt, "Lila Fadista" wafts a fan in front of his beard as he sings about the gay community's pain and revolt in lyrics not heard before in fado, Portugal's traditional style of folk song.
Tiago Lila, his real name, is performing alongside band mate Joao Cacador, who also breaks fado tradition by strumming an electric guitar rather than a 12-string acoustic one.
Hiding under a large felt hat, only Cacador's leopard print trousers and stiletto shoes are plainly in view.
Together, the duo makes up the band "Fado Bicha", which translates from Portuguese as "Fado Queer".
Although not widely known among the general public, they have toured Por-



Tiago Lila aka Lila Fadista, right, and Joao Cacador. **• AFP**

tugal, Spain, France and Belgium, performing around 150 concerts since 2017.
But they like to make regular appearances in Lisbon, home to many dimly lit bars featuring live fado music.

The melancholy genre about the struggles of daily life, sung in soulful tones, was born on the margins of Portuguese society at the end of the 18th century.
Since 2011, it has been in-

scribed by UNESCO as part of Portugal's cultural heritage.
In Lisbon, the duo performs at The Late Birds hotel, an urban resort catering for gay men in the capital's trendy Bairro Alto neighbourhood. The audience listens intently.
Untold stories
Rather than sticking to classic fado themes of general malaise, the pair, who are themselves both gay, take the traditional style but turn the lyrics to LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) stories.
Their playlist features songs about a fisherman's love for a fishmonger, the desperation of a gay dancer locked up in a psychiatric hospital and the pride of a transsexual woman who became a figurehead for LGBTI activists.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

DIRECTORATE OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Landmark Opportunity for

BUILDERS & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPERS

Flagship Project under Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project supported by Asian Development Bank

Date:	3 October 2019
Loan No. and Title:	3710-IND: Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project
Contract No. and Title:	MPSDP/GSP/Works/01: Construction of Global Skills Park
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	15 November 2019 at 15:00 hours (IST)

9009690699
Email: mpsdp.dsd@gmail.com, gmprompts.mpsdp@gmail.com
6. A pre-bid meeting will take place on 15 October 2019 at 11:00 hours (IST), at the address stated in the Bidding Document.
7. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
• Write or visit the office of the Employer at address stated above;
• Pay a non-refundable fee of INR 15,000/- (US\$250) towards the cost of Bidding Document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in the name of "Directorate of Skill Development" payable at Bhopal.
In case of written request and receipt of payment towards the cost of Bidding Document, the document will be handover to the person authorized by the Bidder or sent by post/courier. The Bidders who wish to receive the Bidding Document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 5,000 for delivery within India, or USD 250 for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through Bank Demand draft payable at Bhopal. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
The eligible Bidders may download the Bidding Document in English language from the website <http://www.mpskills.gov.in>. Such Bidders shall still be required to get a hard copy of the Bidding Document by writing or visiting the office of the Employer and pay the associated costs to receive the Bidding Document (see above) preferably prior to the pre-bid meeting (see para 6 above) or at sufficient time prior to the bid submission deadline at the latest (see para 8 below) if they decide to submit a bid. Eligible Bidders who download the Bidding Document from <http://www.mpskills.gov.in> website shall promptly inform Directorate of Skill Development (DOSD) in writing and provide their contact details at the address given above, failing which Directorate of Skill Development (DOSD) shall not be responsible if the Bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.
8. Deliver bids:
• To the address above
• **On or before deadline: 15 November 2019 at 15:00 hours (IST)**
• Together with a Bid Security as specified in the Bidding Documents.
Technical Bids will be opened at 15:30 hours after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who chose to attend.

D-11173/2019